



VILLAGER

January 23-February 5, 2008

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Trading up to Trader Joe's

Committee recommends Randolph-Lexington site for new gourmet grocery

BY JANE McCLURE

The Zoning Committee of the St. Paul Planning Commission voted 6-0-1 on January 17 to recommend approval of the site plan for a 1.27-acre retail development on the southeast corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway. The full Planning Commission could approve the site plan as early as January 25, paving the way for a new Trader Joe's gourmet grocery store. However, that isn't likely to happen unless the developers meet several conditions that were recommended by the Zoning Committee to address the drainage for and the appearance of the development as well as the impact on traffic at the busy intersection.

The St. Paul City Council voted 6-1 on January 9 to rezone the site from

TRADER JOE'S ▶ 2



Minnehaha Academy preschoolers Maddie Pluntz and Ethan Lessard work on a shark mural outside their newly renovated classroom. A story on the ongoing \$12 million upgrade of Minnehaha's Lower and Middle School campus in South Minneapolis appears on page 15. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Race for White House moves to Minnesota

Presidential candidates woo the party faithful at precinct caucuses Feb. 5

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Hoping to gain more influence in picking their parties' presidential nominees, Minnesota's major political parties have moved their precinct caucuses up a month to February 5. Minnesota is one of 22 states that will be holding either precinct caucuses or a presidential primary that evening. Media pundits are calling it "Tsunami Tuesday," and the outcome could very well determine the presidential nominees of

the Democratic and Republican parties.

The presidential election in 2008 is the first in 56 years in which no sitting president or vice president will be on the ballot, and the wide-open race has party chairs predicting heavy turnouts at the February 5 caucuses.

Precinct caucuses are the traditional start of the election season in Minnesota. In addition to president, the 2008 campaign in Minnesota includes races for one U.S. Senate seat, eight congressional seats and all 134 seats in the state House of Representatives. The DFL, Republican and Independence Party caucuses all begin with registration at 6:30 p.m. on February 5. The actual caucuses will get under way at 7:00.

Minnesota Republicans will conduct a presidential straw poll during the first hour of their

precinct caucuses. Among the GOP candidates are former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, U.S. Senator John McCain of Arizona, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson of Tennessee, former U.S. Representative Duncan Hunter of California, U.S. Representative Ron Paul of Texas and former Assistant Secretary of State Alan Keyes. Delegates will be elected for future district conventions, the party platform will be discussed, resolutions will be passed and local party officers will be elected.

DFLers will also hold a presidential preference poll during the first hour of their caucuses.

PRECINCT CAUCUSES ▶ 7

Deadline looms for trimming Central Corridor

BY JANE McCLURE

February 27 is decision day for the Central Corridor light-rail project. That is when the Metropolitan Council needs to make key choices on light-rail line features, including the locations of stations along University Avenue, streetscape improvements, a connection to the Union Depot concourse and a tunnel beneath the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus.

The decisions are needed because the cost of the Central Corridor project is already estimated at \$990 million and must be brought down to \$840 million to meet federal funding guidelines. Adding the expensive connection to the Union Depot or U of M tunnel would ratchet the cost



up to \$1.2 billion.

Met Council chair Peter Bell said that if the major project decisions are not made soon, the Central Corridor's preliminary engineering work will not be completed in time to meet a September 5 submission deadline to the Federal Transportation Administration. Plans are to begin construction on the corridor in 2010 and

have the line operational in 2014.

"If we delay the scoping (studies) for a month or two, it doesn't mean we're delayed a month or two," Bell said. "It delays us for a year. Our ability to get our (federal) application in by fall will be in jeopardy."

Met Council staff told the project's Corridor Management Committee on January 9 that a one-year delay could add millions of dollars in inflationary costs to the project.

Governor Tim Pawlenty weighed in on the funding question on January 14 when he announced his 2008 state bonding recommendations. The governor is pushing for the project to be cut back to the \$840 million mark. The

CENTRAL CORRIDOR ▶ 2

1 ◀ TRADER JOE'S

single- and multi-family residential to a traditional neighborhoods zone that allows for a mix of commercial and residential uses. The parcel bounded by Randolph, Lexington, Juno Avenue and I-35E is currently occupied by four single-family homes, a triplex and an automotive audio and security business.

Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune cast the lone vote against the rezoning, calling the project a shopping mall and not a traditional mixed-use neighborhood development. He also questioned whether the neighbors' concerns about traffic at the intersection can be adequately addressed.

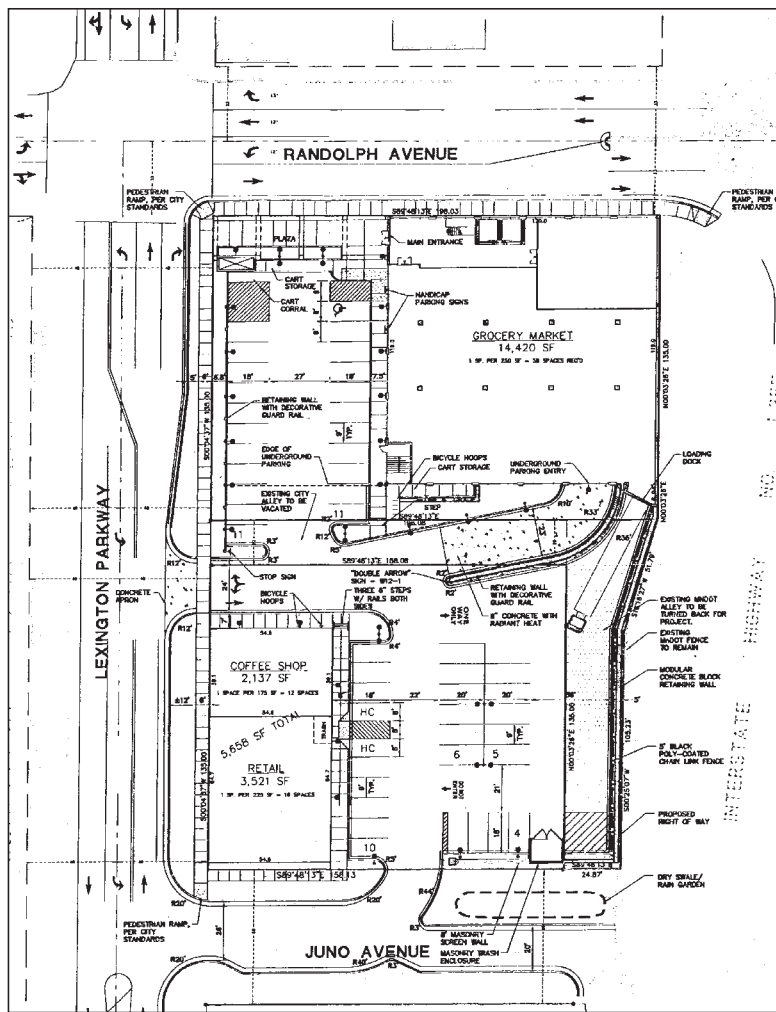
Co-developers Meridian Management and TOLD Development plan to remove the existing buildings and erect a 14,420-square-foot Trader Joe's and a second 5,330-square-foot building for two or more retail tenants yet to be determined.

Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris said he had "deep concerns" about the effect that Trader Joe's, a national chain store, would have on nearby independent retailers. "But those aren't zoning issues," he said, in advocating for the rezoning.

About 40 people attended the Zoning Committee's public hearing on the site plan. Five people spoke in favor.

"We're impressed with the developers' efforts to make this a good fit for the neighborhood," said Bill Foussard, a Lexington Parkway property owner representing the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's exactly the kind of development that should be brought to St. Paul."

Tom Keefer, whose family owns the Montcalm Estates apartment complex at Randolph and Lexington, praised the developers for coming to his family early in the process



The site plan for the Trader Joe's project includes a host of changes to improve the flow of traffic into and around the 1.27-acre development on the southeast corner of Randolph and Lexington.

and reviewing their plans.

Neighbors testifying against the site plan said the conditions attached to the development will help. However, they were hoping for more time to work with city staff and the developers on the plan, especially its potential traffic impact at Randolph and Lexington.

Several neighbors said the corner is badly in need of redevelopment, but not at the expense of the neighborhood. Nanette Echols, Ed Senninger and Laura Wallace, who live

just north of the development site, said their side street in already sees many cars cutting through to avoid traffic tie-ups at Randolph and Lexington.

According to Senninger, vehicles exiting the I-35E Parkway on Randolph east of Lexington already lack adequate space for queuing up at a red light or waiting to turn at Lexington.

Vehicles coming from the east on Randolph will have to turn left twice to get into Trader Joe's parking lot.

Vehicles coming from the west will have to turn right onto Lexington and then left into the development's parking lot.

"There's not going to be enough room for those vehicles trying to turn onto Lexington Parkway and then into Trader Joe's," Wallace said. According to her, the development will make traffic "more of a nightmare than it already is at this corner,"

Tom Beach, who oversees site plan reviews for the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development, said he believes the recommended conditions should address the neighbors' concerns about traffic. "But if we're wrong and traffic gets backed up, there are tweaks that are going to have to be made," he said.

Stuart Simek of Meridian Management dismissed the neighbors' request for more time to mitigate the problems they foresee, saying he did not think he would be able to appease them anyway. The site plan has already gone through months of public review, he said, and it should be approved as is.

"This is a blighted corner and it deserves a high-quality project," Simek said. The local residents, he added, "have conveniently chosen to ignore the fact that they bought homes in a neighborhood close to busy streets and a freeway."

The site plan conditions recommended by the Zoning Committee include:

- Extending the left-turn lane on westbound Randolph at Lexington.
- Adding a left-turn signal at Randolph for vehicles traveling north on Lexington.
- Widening Lexington south of Randolph by 6 feet by narrowing the boulevard on the east side from 12 to 6 feet, and adding a right-turn lane there for northbound Lexington.

ton and a left-turn lane on southbound Lexington for traffic entering the Trader Joe's parking lot. The lane would extend from Juno Avenue to 50 feet north of the parking lot entrance off of Lexington.

• Retiming the traffic signals in all directions from Randolph and Lexington to improve traffic flow through the intersection.

• Improving Juno Avenue to mitigate the development's effect on the four remaining homes on the south side of the street. The developer would pay 25 percent of the cost of the street improvements and the city would pay the rest through its Residential Street Vitality Program. The street repaving project planned for 2014 would be moved up.

• Redesigning the south facade of the Trader Joe's building, currently proposed as a solid masonry wall, with windows and other architectural elements.

• The developers would be responsible for plowing snow on Juno after it is rebuilt.

• The developers would have to obtain a permit to connect the storm sewer to the Minnesota Department of Transportation system along I-35E.

• Final details of the site plan, including stormwater drainage, landscaping and lighting, would have to be approved by the city before any building permits are issued.

• Parking lot lights would have to be turned off when the businesses are not open, except for any lighting that is deemed necessary for security purposes.

The project's architect, Lee Sepplings of Collaborative Design Group, said that several other improvements have already been made to the site plan, including a rain garden and a brick wall with vines along the Juno Avenue side of the parking lot.

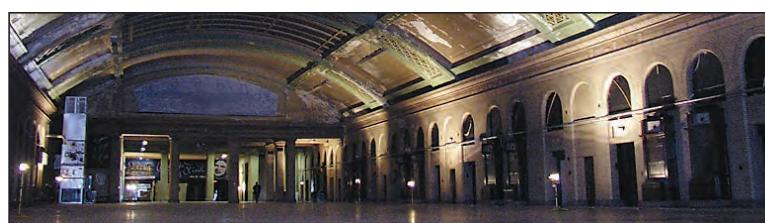
1 ◀ CENTRAL CORRIDOR

Met Council is seeking \$140 million in state funding for the project. Pawlenty has recommended \$70 million, saying he will not recommend the full amount until there is agreement on various facets of the project.

The February 27 deadline is now prompting a flurry of meetings all along the 11-mile corridor. The St. Paul City Council was the latest to weigh in. As part of its 2008 legislative agenda adopted on January 16, the council cited the need to develop "a sufficient number and placement of stops to maximize the line's social and economic benefits to the region and to the neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor."

District councils, community development corporations and other groups along the Central Corridor route are lobbying for added stations at Victoria Street and Western and Hamline avenues. An additional \$5.5 million would be needed per station.

The biggest ticket items looming over the Central Corridor are the tunnel at the University of Minnesota and the connection to the Union Depot concourse, which is being eyed as a multi-modal transit hub. The Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority voted 6-1 on January 15 to eliminate the most expensive of the concourse connections from the plan. That option, which would have added \$57.8 million to the project's cost, would have used the



The interior of the Union Depot concourse.

2nd Street viaduct as well as a tunnel. Commissioner Tony Bennett cast the lone vote against eliminating that option, saying a less expensive version of that route should be studied.

Other commissioners disagreed. "I'm not sure there is another alternative to 2nd Street," said commissioner Victoria Reinhardt.

That leaves connections using Broadway or Wacouta streets on the

table. The current Central Corridor study calls for trains to stop in front of the depot's head house on 4th Street, which is more than a block away from the concourse and the planned transit hub.

Near the west end of the line, the University of Minnesota has agreed to pay for engineering studies of ground-level rail lines to travel north of the campus. Because those studies will not be done by February

27, any changes to the project would have to be weighed against likely delays and added costs.

Vice president of university services Kathleen O'Brien said the U of M wanted the northern options studied seven years ago, but that request was turned down by an advisory committee. University officials are now pushing for the tunnel because of concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety, especially on Washington Avenue.

The tunnel as it was originally proposed for the Central Corridor can no longer be built because of conflicts with the university's new football stadium. Capital costs for a redesigned tunnel have been estimated at between \$110 million and \$130 million.

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Credit union is next on menu for former Embers site on University

By Jane McClure

Remember the Embers? The University Avenue building that once served as the flagship restaurant and office for the longtime Twin Cities-based chain could soon become a third branch of St. Paul Federal Credit Union if a purchase agreement is executed in the days ahead.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously approved a 54-foot setback variance on January 14 that would allow the credit union to add a drive-up lane behind the building at 1664 University Ave. The minimum setback between a drive-up lane and a

residential property is 60 feet. The proposed drive-up land would be six feet from the property line between the former restaurant and an apartment building to the south.

City staff recommended approving the variance. The credit union has agreed to direct the sound system for the drive-up lane away from the residential area to the south and to add security cameras behind the building.

The drive-up lane would be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Vehicles would enter through existing curb cuts on University Avenue or Fry Street, and would exit onto Pierce Street. The credit union estimates that drive-

up traffic will vary from 54 vehicles on Saturdays to 26 on Tuesdays.

The District 13 Community Council took no position on the variance, and no one attended the BZA hearing to speak against the variance. City staff heard support from the manager of the nearby Spruce Tree Center commercial building, and concerns about noise from the owner of the apartment building and one of its tenants.

The one-story, 11,000-square-foot building currently houses a Chinese-Cambodian restaurant, a tailor and a real estate office. St. Paul Federal Credit Union would occupy the entire building.

Embers was once one of the region's largest and highest-profile restaurant chains. However, many Embers have closed in recent years. Embers co-founder Henry Kristal died last month. His son, David, is a Summit Avenue resident and CEO of St. Paul-based Embers America, a franchisor with affiliations with 19 independently owned restaurants in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

No timeline to open the credit union has been announced. St. Paul Federal plans to renovate the structure and update the exterior before moving in. The parking lot would be restriped for about 40 spaces, with a smaller employee lot on the Fry Street side.

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A stone's throw away

St. Paul club continues to be hotbed of activity for frozen sport of curling

Casting stones in the direction of others is generally considered a bad thing to do, but not at 476 Selby Ave. Here at the St. Paul Curling Club, courtesy and respect are the order of the day as stones are slid along vigorously swept sheets of ice. According to a brochure published by the Curling Club for the 1993 national championships that were held there, "Curlers play to win but never to humble their opponents....A true curler would prefer to lose rather than to win unfairly....The spirit of the game demands good sportsmanship, kindly feeling and honorable conduct."

That conviviality has been a hallmark of the sport throughout its history. Jim Dexter, club manager and ice maker since 1980 and a curler for two decades longer, recalled a world competition in Milwaukee when a curler angrily strode off the ice after a match and refused to shake hands with the other team. The unsportsmanlike conduct riled the crowd so much that they booed until the player returned and congratulated the winners.

The St. Paul Curling Club was incorporated in November 1885, and the city's first official curling match was played on Christmas Day of that year on the frozen Mississippi River near Raspberry Island. The first St. Paul Winter Carnival in 1886 featured a curling tournament, or bonspiel, with eight sheets of ice in old Central Park, which was located south of the state Capitol.

The St. Paul Curling Club will continue that Winter Carnival tradition with its annual mixed bonspiel on January 25-27. This year's theme is "Once Upon A Time," and curlers and fans alike are being encouraged to come dressed as their favorite fairy tale, legend, book or movie character. Curling begins at 10:00 a.m. Friday, 8:00 a.m. Saturday and noon Sunday. Admission is free for spectators. (Call 651-246-3965 or visit www.stpaulcurlingclub.org.)

The Curling Club's first clubhouse was built in 1891 with five sheets of natural ice on Raspberry Island. It was constructed on pillars to protect it from spring floods, and a long staircase connected it to the Wabasha Bridge



Close to Home

By Lisa Heinrich

above. In those days, as Bill Farbelow related in *Pig's Eye Report*, curlers had to carry their own stones—each weighing 42 pounds—up and down the staircase's more than 100 steps.

(The object of the sport is to slide the granite stones, or rocks, from one end of a sheet of ice to the other. Teams try to leave as many of their rocks closest to the center of the target, or house. Players sweep the ice in front of the sliding rock to alter its speed and direction.)

The Northwest Curling Association was formed in 1892 with clubs from Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Illinois, and held its first bonspiel in St. Paul in 1893. The four-day event was played on five sheets of natural ice in the clubhouse and 25 on the river.

With curling well-established as a popular local sport, clubs like the St. Paul Curling Club thrived. The St. Paul club had as many as 250 members at the turn of the last century and many neighborhoods had their own rinks. A visit by Robert Dunbar, "the world's greatest curler" and "Lion of the North," added to the sport's early prominence in St. Paul, as did a visit from the touring Royal Caledonian Curling Club, "the Mother Club" in Scotland.

In spite of the sport's popularity, the St. Paul Curling Club folded in 1904 due to financial difficulties, and the clubhouse on Raspberry Island was razed. The following year, several members of the former club started the Capital City Curling Club. It played its matches in a building on Smith Avenue where United and



Allison Pottinger sends a rock on its way to the house at the St. Paul Curling Club, 476 Selby Ave. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Children's Hospitals are now. Novelist Jack London was reported to have stopped there to throw a few stones when he was in town.

The St. Paul Curling Club re-formed in 1912 through the merger of the Capital City Club and the Nushka Club, the latter of which had formed in the 1880s and held most of its activities in the Ramsey Hill neighborhood. The old Nushka clubhouse on Selby Avenue was torn down and a new clubhouse with six sheets of ice opened its doors on Christmas Eve 1912.

The revived St. Paul Curling Club held its first major event, the 20th annual Northwestern Curling Association bonspiel, in January 1913. Louis Hill, son of railroad magnate James J. Hill, presented the trophy to the winner among more than 90 teams from the United States and Canada. Farbelow wrote that it was the largest bonspiel ever held up to that time, with more than 400 curlers competing on 12 sheets. The club flooded an adjoining outdoor lot to add six more sheets to those in the clubhouse.

The club again found itself in financial straits after World War I and during the Depression, but it was able to install two sheets of refrigerated ice in 1939 and add refrigeration to six more sheets in the ensuing 23 years. Before refrigeration, the clubhouse's huge windows were opened to keep the ice frozen.

Though women had been playing for many

years on Canadian teams, the Bonnie Spielers were formed in the winter of 1951-52 as the first club team for women at the St. Paul club. Junior curling began that same decade.

A decline in membership and in the neighborhood in the 1960s and '70s gave rise to discussions of moving or disbanding the curling club. However, over the past two decades members have volunteered their talents to completely renovate the clubhouse.

The Winter Olympics first featured curling in 1998, which boosted the popularity of the sport locally. The club now boasts 1,150 members and is the biggest in the country "by far," according to Dexter.

Today, the club schedules league games and tournaments nearly every night from October to April. At the Jack McCann Men's Over 40 Bonspiel on December 7-9, the club was jammed with curlers and their fans. Wide brooms swept the sheets between games. Dexter sprinkled the ice with droplets of water to give it the required pebbling effect. Upstairs, observers ate, drank, watched the games and shared stories.

As play progressed and the curlers shook hands, it was clear that the spirit of curling lives on—courtesy and good sportsmanship still foremost in the sport.

Editor's note: Writers Jane McClure and Larry Englund contributed to this story.

Winter Carnival highlights

By popular demand, a majority of the attractions for the 122nd St. Paul Winter Carnival will be in and around Rice Park on January 23 to February 3. "The Coolest Celebration on Earth" is collaborating this year with the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships that are taking place through January 27 at the Xcel Energy Center. Hundreds of thousands of people will be visiting St. Paul in the next 12 days to take in either or both events. Here are some the highlights of this year's Winter Carnival:

Wednesday, January 23—Ice castle replica exhibit (through February 2), World Figure Skating Museum and Hall of Fame exhibit (through February 3), Minnesota Hotdish Tent (through February 3), Carnival Kickoff Bonanza.

Thursday, January 24—Multi-block ice carving competition (through January 26), Royal Coronation Dinner, Royal Coronation, Royal Ball.

Friday, January 25—Mixed Bonspiel (through Sunday), Snow Sculpting Competition (through Sunday), Gaslight Tours, (through tomorrow), Bouncing Girl tryouts, Capitol Art & Artists' Tour, Klondike Kate Cabaret.

Saturday, January 26—Securian Frozen 5K and Half Marathon, Winter on the Hill tours (through tomorrow), Sainly Cat City Show (through tomorrow), Orchid Show (through tomorrow), kids' activities at Landmark Center, Grand Day Parade, "Beyond Boreas" puppet Show (through tomorrow).

Sunday, January 27—Single-block ice carving competition, kids' activities at Landmark Center, Winter Fitness of Fun.

Monday, January 28—Showcase St. Paul cultural dance and storytelling.

Thursday, January 31—Senior Royalty Coronation.

Friday, February 1—Gaslight Tours (through tomorrow), School of Rock.

Saturday, February 2—Race UP the Place, kids' activities at Landmark Center, Winter on the Hill (through tomorrow), "Beyond Boreas" puppet show (through tomorrow), Torchlight Parade, Vulcans' Overthrow of Boreas, Vulcan Victory Dance.

Sunday, February 3—Pony rides, Winter Fitness of Fun.

Most carnival events are free or offer a discount with a carnival button. Buttons cost \$5.00 each or \$18 for a four-button set and are available at Cub Foods, SuperAmerica, Snyders, Wal-Mart and other local retailers. For information, call 651-223-7400 or visit www.winter-carnival.com.

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Low voter turnout in '07 has St. Paul searching for answers

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

With the approach of the February 5 precinct caucuses and the start of the 2008 electoral campaign, political observers in St. Paul have taken a look back at the 2007 election and its near record low voter turnout. Though all seven seats on the City Council were contested in '07 and the eight-candidate field for the School Board was perhaps as strong as any in recent memory, only 19 percent of registered voters bothered to take part in the general election on November 6. The turnout had civic leaders shaking their heads and wondering whether there is a problem with how the city conducts its elections.

"When only 19 percent of the voters turn out, how much of a mandate can a winner claim?" asked David Schultz, a political science professor at Hamline University.

Some people attributed the low voter turnout to the fact that the mayor's seat was not on the ballot. A citywide mayoral race has tended to attract more voters in recent elections (see the accompanying chart), but since 1985, when the mayor's term was extended from two to four years, every other city election has lacked a citywide race, not counting the School Board or a special referendum. Since 1999, when City Council terms were extended from two to four years, the elections for mayor and City Council have not been held in the same year.

"When the whole city government is on the ballot, you see a much higher voter turnout," said former City Council member Ruby Hunt. "When everybody is elected together, all the issues are discussed on a citywide basis as well as at the ward level. Ward elections alone make for a disjointed campaign where citywide issues get little attention."

"The City Council and mayor should be elected at the same time, even though you run the risk of a wholesale turnover in government," said former City Council member Bobbi Megard. "I truly believe that this election setup is what's causing conservatives to fade even further from the political picture. And that's not a good thing because you need a good back-and-forth on the issues."

"I don't like many of the changes that were made for the City Council in the past 20 years—making them part-time, with longer terms and separate elections," said former Mayor George Latimer. "It's counterintuitive to have four-year terms for part-time council members. And you just can't justify a system that has caused such a low voter turnout."

St. Paul's form of government evolved over the past four decades through voter approval of a series of City Charter amendments. The city instituted its strong-mayor form of government in the early 1970s. Its seven City Council members were elected at-large in the first decade of that system. However, since the early 1980s council members have represented individual wards. A charter amendment in 1984 extended the mayor's term to four years. In 1994 voters approved a charter amendment making the City Council part-time, but rejected another amendment that would have expanded the City Council to nine members with four members elected at-large. Finally, in 1998 voters approved an amendment extending City Council terms to four years.

According to former Charter Commission member Carole Faricy, there was a fear on the part of commission members at the time that staggering mayoral and City Council elections would result in a drop in voter turnout. "I think it's ridiculous not to have one citywide election," she said.

Electing the mayor and City Council in the same year would increase voter turnout, according to Mark Gehan Jr., a former chair of the Charter Commission. However, he does not remember voter turnout being discussed when the commission extended the council's term to four years. The issue, he said, "was more about the possibility of the entire city government being changed (in one election) and whether it was best to keep the legislative (council) and executive (mayoral) elections separate."

"There likely would be higher voter turnout if the City Council and mayor were elected at the same time," said Joe Mansky, manager of the Ramsey County Elections Bureau. Turnout in recent elections has been lower when there are no citywide races beyond the School Board, he said. That was the case in 1995, 2003 and 2007 when voter turnout was 31 percent, 22 percent and 19 percent, respectively. The city election in 1999, though it did not have a mayoral race, attracted 54 percent of the electorate. However, that year there was a citywide referendum on a city sales tax to help finance a new Twins stadium.

According to Mansky, voter turnout was probably lower this year because of "the lack of any burning citywide issues. Also, turnout is usually higher in wards where residents have more education and more income, and we've had a large influx of immigrants recently who might not yet be comfortable with the election system."

Voter turnout in St. Paul city elections

Year	Races	Turnout
1985*	Mayor and Council	28%
1987	Council	25%
1989	Mayor and Council	43%
1991	Council	30%
1993	Mayor and Council	44%
1995	Council	31%
1997	Mayor and Council	44%
1999**	Council	54%
2001	Mayor and Council	41.5%
2003	Council	22%
2005	Mayor and Council	37%
2007	Council	19%

* First 4-year term for mayor

** First 4-year term for City Council; stadium sales tax referendum on ballot

Sources: Ramsey County Elections Bureau and Minnesota Historical Society

Ward 7 City Council member Kathy Lantry also attributed the lower voter turnout to changing demographics. The numbers may bear that out. Among the most hotly contested City Council races in 2007 were those in Wards 1, 5 and 6—areas of the city that also have the greatest number of recent immigrants. However, more voters turned out in Wards 2 and 3. In Ward 3, City Council incumbent Pat Harris' opponent, Gerald Mischke, dropped out of the race in late August, yet 5,063 voters turned out at the polls—8 percent more than in Ward 6, 11 percent more than in Ward 1 and 23 percent more than in Ward 5.

How then should St. Paul promote a higher turnout in city elections? Harris and City Council members Melvin Carter III in Ward 1 and Russ Stark in Ward 4 believe that moving City Council elections to the same year as the mayoral election is worth considering. One problem with that approach, Lantry said, is that it would require imposing at least one two-year term on either the mayor or City Council.

"I think city elections, for all of the offices, should be held in the off-presidential congressional election years, whether it's every two years or four years," Schultz said. "Some people say that federal and state elections might drown out city elections, but that risk must be balanced in favor of the inevitably greater turnout those higher-office elections engender."

Some people say that instant runoff voting would encourage higher voter turnout. In instant runoff voting, multiple candidates may appear on the general election ballot for a single office and voters rank them in order of preference. That eliminates the need for a primary election and may improve the prospects of otherwise attractive independent or third-party candidates, proponents say.

"I support the concept of instant runoff voting on its merits because I believe it would better represent people's attitudes," Latimer said, "but I'm not sure it would necessarily produce a larger turnout."

"I've never been a big fan of instant runoff voting," Lantry said. "If as much passion and energy that have been put into that effort were put into voter education, I know there'd be a bigger turnout."

Stark and Carter both said that better and more consistent communication with constituents on the part of the mayor and City Council would improve voter turnout.

"Schools, business, government, the media and community organizations all influence voter turnout through education," Harris said. "Enhancement of those efforts, along with an emphasis on technology and access to it, would go a long way in improving voter turnout."

"I would not support moving the City Council elections," said Ward 5 City Council member Lee Helgen. "Given the strong-mayor form of municipal government in St. Paul, it's important to maintain the checks and balances between the council and mayor. I think turnout could be improved if the media did a better job of covering the issues facing the city. The horse-race approach doesn't allow voters to make informed decisions. Far too often, people don't know the issues or candidates and therefore don't feel like they can make an informed decision."

Ward 6 City Council member Dan Bostrom said he does not believe electing the mayor and City Council in the same year would address the problem of low voter turnout. "Candidates have a responsibility to address voters with their records and future plans," he said.

Referring to what she called "bad media coverage," Lantry said, "there were many people in my ward who didn't think I had an opponent, didn't know I was in a primary. I had to send out 500 letters reminding people I did have opponents and asking them to spread the word." Without that letter, she said, "one or both of my primary opponents could have knocked me out of the race."

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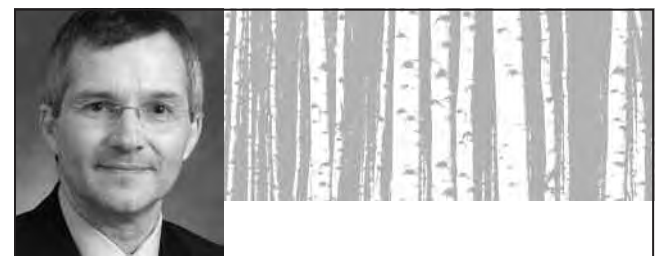
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Precinct caucus locations set

Minnesota's Republican, DFL and Independence parties will hold their precinct caucuses at 7:00 p.m. (registration begins at 6:30 p.m.) on Tuesday, February 5, at the following locations. The Green Party will hold its caucuses on Tuesday, March 4.

Republican Party

House District 39A — Friendly Hills Middle School, 701 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights.

Senate District 62 — Minnehaha Academy North Campus, 3100 West River Pkwy., Minneapolis.

House District 64A — Longfellow Elementary School, 327 N. Moore St.

House District 64B — Expo Elementary School, 540 S. Warwick St.

Senate District 65 — Capitol Hill School, 560 Concordia Ave.

DFL Party

House District 39A — Simley High School, 2920 E. 80th St., Inver Grove Heights.

House District 64A — Ramsey Junior High School, 1700 Summit Ave.

House District 64B — Highland Park Junior High School, 975 S. Snelling Ave.

Senate District 65 — All Ward 1 precincts and Ward 5 precincts 6, 7 and 10, Rondo Education Center, 304 N. Dale St.

Ward 2, Precincts 1-7, Monroe School,

810 Palace Ave.
Ward 2, Precincts 8-11, Galtier Plaza, 320 Jackson St.

Ward 2, Precincts 12-16, Humboldt High School, 30 E. Baker St.

Minneapolis' Ward 12 — Precincts 5 and 10, Keewaydin Elementary School, 5209 30th Ave. S.

Precincts 6 and 9, Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St.

Precinct 7, Minnesota Veterans Home Building 17, 5101 Minnehaha Ave. S.

Precincts 8 and 11, Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Ave. S.

Precincts 1-4, Sanford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave. S.

Independence Party

St. Paul and Mendota Heights precincts — Highland Elementary School, 1700 Saunders Ave.

Minneapolis precincts — Sibley Community Center, 1900 E. 40th St. in Minneapolis.

The Independence Party is also holding a month-long on-line caucus at www.mnip.org beginning February 5.

Green Party

Precinct caucuses will be held on Tuesday, March 4. In the 4th Congressional District, Green Party members will meet at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. Visit www.mngreens.org.

1 ◀ PRECINCT CAUCUSES

Among the Democratic candidates are U.S. Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton of New York, former U.S. Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, former U.S. Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska and U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich of Ohio. Depending on the results of the balloting, each presidential candidate will be apportioned delegates to the DFL's senate district conventions. Individuals at the caucuses who are pledged to a particular candidate will then be elected as delegates.

Endorsements will also be made at the DFL caucuses for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Norm Coleman. Candidates include comedian and author Al Franken, attorney Mike Ciresi, attorney Jim Cohen, University of St. Thomas professor Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer and former Minneapolis City Council member Dick Franson. Party platform issues and resolutions will also be addressed and party officers will be elected.

With few candidates at any level, the Independence Party's precinct caucuses in the 4th and 5th congressional districts will involve the

possible drafting of candidates, a discussion of the issues, a vote on resolutions and the election of party officers. Although most precinct caucus locations will not be determined until after the Independence Party (IP) state convention on January 26, caucus locations have already been announced for *Villager* area precincts (see the box above). The IP will also be holding a month-long on-line precinct caucus beginning February 5 at www.mnip.org.

U.S. Representatives Betty McCollum in the 4th District and Keith Ellison in the 5th District are both running for re-election. The seven incumbent state representatives in the *Villager* area, all of whom are DFLers, have also said they plan to run for re-election this year.

No local U.S. House or state House candidates have stepped forward thus far for the Republican, Independence or Green parties, according to their 4th District chairs Rory Koch, Tom Klas and Andrew Abruzzese, respectively.

Candidates must formally file for office between July 1 and 15. The primary election will be held on September 9 and the general election on November 4.

Winter Carnival, theater are among those receiving Cultural STAR grants

By JANE McCLURE

Several local cultural programs were the beneficiaries of the second round of St. Paul's 2007 Cultural Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) funding. The St. Paul City Council recently awarded 27 grants totaling \$604,532. The largest grants were \$50,000 each to the St. Paul Winter Carnival for its ice and snow sculpture contests and to the History Theatre to conduct outreach and marketing.

All but \$100,246 of the grants were awarded to programs in the downtown cultural district. *Villager* area groups receiving funding include the following:

- Minnesota Youth Symphonies, St. Paul City Ballet and St. Paul Conservatory of Music. They received \$10,000 to conduct a study for a shared permanent home and performance space.

- Czech and Slovak Sokol. The group sought a \$47,1340 grant for office space renovation and equipment in the CSPA Hall on West 7th Street. The group was awarded \$2,000.

- Minnesota Jewish Theater. The troupe, which produces most of its plays in the auditorium of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, will use a \$48,600 grant to stage the musical *Parade* at the History Theatre in downtown St. Paul next month.

- The College of Visual Arts. The college received \$29,530 for technology improvements. The Highland Business Association's request for \$7,935 to set up an electronic application and jury process for the annual Highland Art Fair failed to make the final cut. The Highland Art Fair is one of the last in the region to ask artists to submit slides of their work rather than electronic images.

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Viewpoint

Snelling medians merit more debate

BY MICHAEL MISCHKE

The fate of a series of proposed center islands on Snelling Avenue between Grand and St. Clair is expected to become clearer in the next few weeks when the Minnesota Department of Transportation decides whether the project merits state financing. The 10-foot-wide medians would be installed on a six-block stretch of Snelling abutting Macalester College. Two lanes of traffic would be maintained in each direction, with designated left-turn lanes at Grand and at St. Clair. Vehicles would still be able to turn left at Goodrich and Osceola avenues, but left turns to and from all other side streets, all alleys and the Lincoln Commons retail center would be lost, as would most parking on Snelling. The project's cost, estimated at \$750,000, would be split between Macalester and the state. (Snelling is a state highway.)

The medians are being pitched as a way to improve safety along Snelling by giving pedestrians an island in a river of heavy car and truck traffic. Some contend that the medians would also serve to slow traffic.

Others beg to differ. Some believe the loss of access to and from four residential streets will only divert more traffic onto Goodrich and Osceola. Some believe a street separated by medians with a ban on most parking will increase traffic speeds. Others are concerned about the economic impact.

"I don't think anyone is considering all of the consequences of this project," said Ross Feffercorn, the owner of Lincoln Commons. "I'm not against pedestrian safety and traffic calming, but I question whether medians on a short stretch of street are going to have the impact people are looking for."

In any case, he said, "People may want traffic to flow more smoothly on Snelling, but I don't want it to flow past my buildings. I want people to be able to turn into my parking lot." Lincoln Commons' tenants include Coastal Seafoods, Caribou Coffee, Great Clips and Fed Ex/Kinkos, all of which reported lost business during a test of the median last fall.

Personally, if MnDOT officials line up in support of this project, I'd be leery. State highway engineers are notoriously pro-traffic flow. As a MnDOT staff person frankly told one of our reporters last week, "We don't do traffic calming."

No longer debatably the best

The case is closed as to who's the most persuasive of the more than 1,000 Minnesota high school students participating in competitive debate this year. After eight grueling rounds at last week's two-day State Debate Tournament—the 107th and longest-running event sanctioned by the Minnesota State High School League—the team of Juan Garcia and Nat Olson of Highland Park High School was judged to be the best of the best policy debaters.

This year's policy debate proposition was "Resolved: The U.S. federal government should substantially increase its public health assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa." Garcia and Olson, both seniors at Highland, drew the negative position and won the debate by a 3-2 margin over Ben Quam and Ilias Karim of St. Paul Central.

Currently ranked among the top 10 policy debate teams in the nation, Garcia and Olson have also received four bids—the most of any team in the state—to the national Tournament of Champions to be held in May at the University of Kentucky, where they will compete against the top 65 high school debate teams in the country.

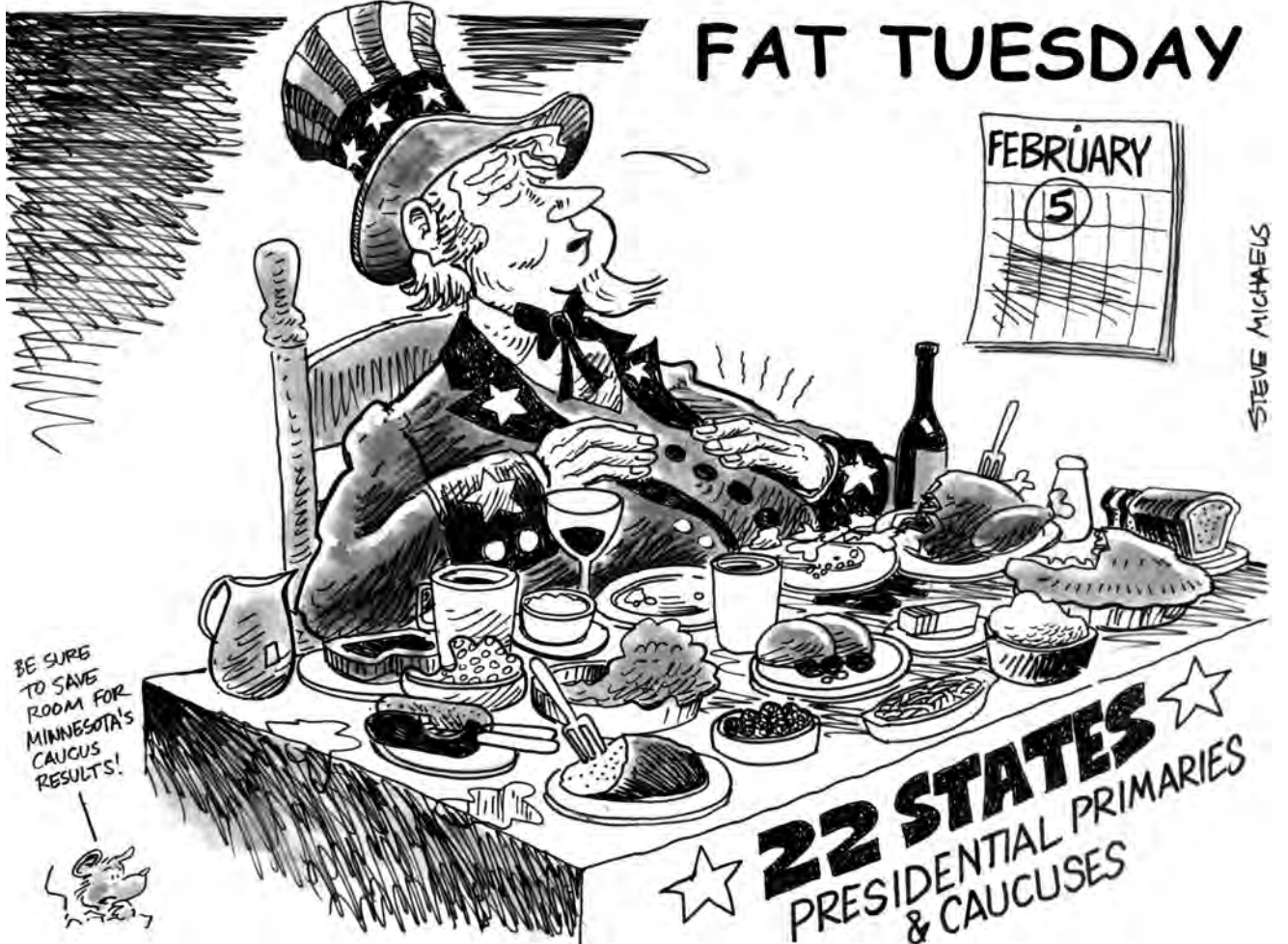
At a time when co-curricular activities such as debate are annually dragged kicking and screaming onto the chopping block due to financially strapped school districts, it was instructive to note in a story on Highland's debate program in the last issue of the *Villager* what such programs mean to the young people who get involved in them.

"I don't think any of us would enjoy school nearly as much if we didn't have debate," said senior Michael Lando.

"It's made my school experience," said senior Tamar Kaplan.

Kaplan, it should be mentioned, and classmate Jillian Jordan are one of only two other Minnesota teams that have earned a bid to the Tournament of Champions.

Congratulations to the Highland Park debaters and to their coach, Sheila Peterson. And good luck.



Inbox

Caucus or don't complain

Dear editor,

It never fails. Every election year along about August and September, I begin to hear people grouse about not liking the candidates—or worse, they're not going to vote because they don't totally agree with a candidate on every issue. Part of the problem is that they didn't bother to go to their precinct caucus in February.

It is at the February 5 precinct caucuses that the political ball starts rolling, and people who don't bother to show up should keep their collective mouths shut and take what others decide. But, no, the Republicans think they're the only ones in their neighborhood, when in reality 30 percent of the voters in St. Paul are Republican. The Democrats figure they're the only party, so they let George and Georgette do it. And the folks who would like a third party just plain give up.

I know that sounds mean, but if you've ever lived in a state where political deal-making was done by a few people and you didn't have an opportunity to have your voice heard, you'd understand what a privilege we have. Yes, I know it doesn't rival a Vikings football game for excitement, but frankly, I believe the stakes are much higher.

Jennette Gudgel
Highland Park

A call to caucus

To the editor:

On Tuesday, February 5, precinct caucuses will be held across Minnesota. As chairwoman of the District 64B Republican Party, I eagerly invite all those who identify themselves as Republicans to come to Expo Elementary School at 540 S. Warwick St. at 7:00 that evening for the Republican precinct caucuses. We will be updating our party's platform, choosing candidates and convention delegates and hearing from elected officials. It promises to be a fun night to meet other conservative neighbors and make a difference in our party.

Please join our growing group of Republicans in the Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park neighborhoods and make your voice heard. Attend the precinct caucus and be engaged in government at the local level. One person can make the difference.

Leslie Wilcox, Chairwoman
House District 64B Republicans
Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park

Best antidote to Bush

Editor:

I am planning to vote for Barack Obama at my precinct caucus on Tuesday, February 5. I am probably most aligned with Kucinich on the issues. I also appreciate Edwards' "two Americas" message. And I think a woman president is long overdue. But when I consider the damage that the Bush administration has caused, domestically and abroad, Obama feels like the best antidote. Bush promised to "be a uniter, not a divider" and failed. Obama has demonstrated the ability to attract, in addition to Democrats, independents, moderate Republicans and young people to his campaign and truly unite this country.

Todd Seabury-Kolod
Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: For more on the February 5 precinct caucuses, see the story on page 1 of this issue.

Obama's moment in history

To the editor:

Every four years as another presidential election approaches, slight variations of the same time-worn and shop-tested metaphors emerge as the signature imagery in a candidate's stump speeches. This year, it's the "hope and change" and "defining moment in history" of the Obama campaign. I don't fault Senator Obama for playing this hand, though what those worthy yet indistinct promises might actually mean seems questionable. Certainly, no candidate would gain much ground publicly opposing hope and change.

What I don't understand from Obama's speeches—and this applies to other candidates as well—is the lack of platform specificities that might actually define this moment in history. Preaching to the choir without offering particulars is hardly a change at all, but simply the politics of old.

Paul Peter Paulos
Macalester-Groveland

Smokestack gets in your eyes

To the editor:

Xcel Energy's coal-fired High Bridge power plant has been shut down and replaced by a gas-fired power plant. The old plant is scheduled to be removed over the next year or so.

8◀ INBOX

Now under consideration is what to do with the 50 acres freed up by the plant's removal. Believe it or not, some plans call for keeping the smokestack in place. It would have no function, and no historic relevance since it was constructed in the 1970s, replacing lower stacks to get pollution up and over the bluff top.

I have asked what could possibly be the thinking behind keeping the smokestack. I have yet to get a straight answer.

*Brian Bates
West End*

Median madness

To the editor:

If indeed the budget shortfall in the St. Paul Department of Public Works is to cause delays in "replacing street lights, trimming boulevard trees and performing other long-term maintenance" (*Villager*, January 9), where is the money to finish and, more important, maintain those new medians that appeared almost overnight on Marshall Avenue? Furthermore, should there even be any more discussion of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars more for medians on Snelling Avenue?

*J. P. Kolbinger
Merriam Park*

A more solid footing

To the editor:

Winter in Minnesota is either loved or loathed by local residents, but we all share some perverse pride in surviving it. We may laugh about it, but it is not such a laughing matter for the majority of our refugees who are from much warmer Asian or African climes.

On a recent morning, a 56-year-old Somali woman came into the Refugee Cash Assistance office with a broken arm that she had suffered from slipping on ice. On her feet were a pair of pink foam flip-flops—hardly recommended footwear for January in Minnesota. Fortunately for her, the day before the International Institute of Minnesota had received 41 pairs of brand new shoes from Centennial United Methodist Church designated specifically for refugees. The happy ending to this story is that our client left wearing a brand new pair of athletic shoes. She can now walk much more securely and save the flip-flops for summer.

*Vicki McKenna, Operations Manager
International Institute of Minnesota*

Bumpouts and snow plows

To the editor:

Remember when our streets used to be plowed all the way to the curb? Today, more often than not, there is usually a foot of snow and ice left by the curb, making parking and walking difficult. Do not blame the snowplow drivers. They are doing the best job they can given the obstacles that we keep constructing for them, i.e., corner bumpouts.

How come whenever our streets are repaved and new curbs constructed, the city insists on modifying the intersections with bumpouts? I am familiar with the argument that these bumpouts make it safer for pedestrians and promote traffic calming, but do we have any accident reports from these intersections that justify installing the bumpouts or are they just done as a feel-good thing for

certain neighborhood groups?

As a former member of the St. Paul Capital Improvement Budget Committee, I asked city representatives what snowplow drivers thought of these bumpouts when they were proposed for neighborhoods. I was told the drivers hated them. Still, it did not stop them from being installed on a snow-emergency route—St. Clair Avenue near Victoria Street.

In my neighborhood, I have noticed that city plows have gone up and over bumpouts and damaged boulevards. When our streets were resealed, large portions of the pavement at intersections were missed or sealer was unnecessarily applied to the concrete curb aprons. Though cars should not park on the bumpouts, in busier neighborhoods they do, making it impossible for other cars to pass each other at intersections. I guess this illegal behavior by some motorists does promote traffic calming.

Our street grid is about 100 years old and it has worked well all those years. Why change it now?

*Jim Lonetti
Macalester-Groveland*

Public ownership can save plant

Dear editor,

Ford Motor Company initially announced that its Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park would be closing in 2008 and used this to coerce many United Auto Workers members to accept buyout packages. According to St. Paul union members quoted in an article in the *Star Tribune*, Ford's profit per truck jumped from a few hundred dollars to more than \$6,000 since the plant shed 900 workers through buyouts as of January 1, 2007. Ford has become rich and is becoming richer off the value produced by the working class.

Now it is announced that the plant will continue operating beyond 2008, but still the plant's closing looms. At this late date, there is only one way to address the issue of job security—through public takeover and ownership of the Ford Plant in St. Paul.

Ford CEOs have proven they will not make decisions based on anything other than maximum corporate profits. Job security for auto workers is not a consideration with these capitalist CEOs.

Public ownership of the St. Paul Ford Plant means the plant would be taken over by the government and taken out of the system of corporate profits. Ford's Twin Cities Assembly Plant would be operated and controlled as public property and it would dispense with private profits and corporate executive salaries. Public ownership of industry in France produced such marvels as the high-speed TGV train. Public ownership of the St. Paul Ford Plant would guarantee workers and their families job security.

Following is a resolution that we encourage people to take to their precinct caucuses. We also suggest that community groups and unions support this resolution. We can make a difference in the lives of working-class people, our community and our state:

Whereas, Ford Motor Company has stated its intent to close the St. Paul Ford Twin Cities Assembly Plant, sell the hydroelectric dam to a foreign corporation and displace 2,000 workers in the near future without consultation from the workers, the community, or local and state governments;

And whereas this plant, its operations and the hydroelectric dam have received continued support from every level of government, including taxpayer funding, tax breaks and tax abatements under promises to maintain manufacturing operations and with assurances workers would have job security in St. Paul;

INBOX ▶ 10

VILLAGER

Volume 55, Number 22

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Neighborhood closest to St. Thomas can still be 'saved'

By JIM GABLER

As part of the University of St. Thomas' campus expansion settlement a few years ago, UST officials agreed to convert 30 single-family houses from student rental back to owner-occupied houses and to attach legal restrictions against future student rental use of those houses. The area in which UST is to do this is the Macalester-Groveland and Merriam Park neighborhoods.

At the time of the settlement, the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) was also established. WSNAC set up a Housing Subcommittee to monitor UST's activities on this specific mandate. Admittedly now, even by UST staff, the number of student rental houses in the area has grown significantly since the time of the settlement.

The WSNAC subcommittee set forth a preference area for UST to concentrate its housing efforts—along Cleveland Avenue between Marshall and Goodrich avenues and a few blocks east and west of Cleveland. UST, to its credit, has followed that preference area to a great degree until

recently, when the university chose to buy and convert a former student rental house on Stanford Avenue. However, the WSNAC Housing Subcommittee could not reach an agreement to continue focusing on that preference area, so two weeks ago a variety of options were brought to the full WSNAC membership and a less concentrated option was chosen.

Many of us strongly disagreed with this decision. I live outside of the immediate Cleveland Avenue area, but I recognize it is the key area where, and near which, the student rental housing issue began and is now the worst. It has become a huge issue that has enveloped the surrounding blocks, and the only vehicle we have to fight it is the remainder of the 30-house commitment from UST.

What is truly discouraging is not only the reasoning for this change in preference area, but the callous attitude of some WSNAC members who voted for it. Here are but a few of their reasons, and I'm paraphrasing:

- Cleveland Avenue is lost. We have to worry about other areas of the neighborhood so they don't turn to student rental.

- No one wants to live on Cleveland. Even if a house was fixed up there, no one would want to live in it.

- The students and UST have won.
- If we fix up houses on Cleveland, the students will just move to other, less student-concentrated blocks.

- The houses along Cleveland will continue to deteriorate until their condition is so bad that it will bother some of UST's trustees as they drive by.

I was startled by WSNAC's lack of sensitivity to the many affected families living on Cleveland and the streets adjoining it. Alyssa Rebensdorf, who along with Jim Toscano laudably voted against changing the preference area, read a letter of a few years ago from one of the two remaining homeowners on Cleveland. The letter described how students would party on weekends, going from house to house and leaving broken glass in their wake. One night, the homeowner's children witnessed students playing nude softball in a backyard.

Despite the letter, a majority of WSNAC members were unmoved. Worse, some of the members were just plain arrogant in discussing the issue. One had the temerity

to lecture us on the four phases of building condition from Housing 101—development, stability, deterioration and redevelopment. According to that person, the houses along Cleveland are slipping into the third category. Presumably, all we need to do is wait patiently for the fourth condition to evolve through an epiphany of a UST trustee or two.

I and others reject the reasoning that the Cleveland area is lost and can't be saved. We reject the notion of leaving the adjoining neighbors and blocks along Cleveland alone to deal with the worsening impact of student rental housing without the support of the District 13 or Macalester-Groveland councils or WSNAC. And, finally, we reject the insensitivity of those who now ill represent us on these bodies. Clearly, WSNAC is in danger of becoming irrelevant to that section of Macalester-Groveland and Merriam Park most affected by these issues and for which, in effect, it was formed.

Jim Gabler lives in Merriam Park and was a member of WSNAC's Housing Subcommittee before resigning in protest earlier this month.

9◀ INBOX

Therefore, be it resolved, public ownership should be used to save this plant, hydroelectric dam and 2,000 jobs.

*Michael Wood, Coordinator,
Gus Hall Action Club
Minneapolis*

Recycling bin blues

To the editor:

As I drive around our capital city, I am plagued by the question: Who thought up the provincial idea of inadequate blue containers perched precariously on high snowdrifts? Messy. Unsightly. Inefficient. Miniscule thinking.

In every other city that I have lived in, recycling materials have been put into a rolling can with covers and either picked up in the alley or curbside if one doesn't have an alley. No wet paper mess, no blowing plastic, no overflowing cans and bottles in the street. Just neat, out of sight and efficient recycling.

Why isn't this possible in our capital city? How long are we going to have outmoded thinking about such a necessary part of our daily lives when a simple solution is at hand? Whatever happened to common sense?

*J. Johnson
Summit Hill*

Walk this way

To the editor:

Regarding the rules to follow when walking on sidewalks and paths (*Villager* Inbox, January 9): Keep to the right has always been the rule. It's difficult to walk when someone is coming toward you on your right side and they just keep coming. Keep in mind older people who do not react quickly. If I spot someone ahead walking his or her dog, I move to the other side out of courtesy. Many dog owners automatically move off the sidewalk for the walkers out of courtesy. I guess a little give and take helps. But the rule is clear.

*Dorothy Drake
Ramsey Hill*

Woo her with a tree

To the editor:

Villager readers, want to get that special person in your life a Valentine's Day gift that will last for years? How about a tree? For \$75, Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County will see that a tree is planted in a designated park in Ramsey or Dakota counties or in the municipalities of St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Apple Valley, Arden Hills, Blaine, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Cottage Grove, Eagan, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Roseville, St. Louis Park, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights,

White Bear Township or Woodbury.

Park staff will plant the tree. A valentine card will be sent to the gift recipient, and next spring that person will receive a map showing the location of the tree.

Send a check to the Friends of the Parks and Trails, 1621 Beechwood Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, along with the name and address of the person receiving the valentine card. Also specify the preferred park for planting the tree and how the valentine card should be signed.

For more information, visit www.friendsoftheparks.org or call 651-698-4543.

*Peggy Lynch, Executive Director
Friends of the Parks and Trails*

Thanks for the press

To the editor:

On behalf of the Lyra Baroque Orchestra, I thank you most heartily for the wonderful feature article on Lyra (*Villager*, December 19). We were elated! Writer Bill Stieger did a great job researching and writing the article, and it was a pleasure working with him. The article gave us a great boost, and we had a completely full house for our performance on December 22.

*Paul Jacobson, Executive Director
Lyra Baroque Orchestra*



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Neighbors divided over how best to stop rise in off-campus rentals

Some feel abandoned by vote to redirect St. Thomas' rental housing buy-back program

By JANE McCLURE

The growing problems associated with student rental housing in the neighborhoods around the University of St. Thomas campus and how best to address them have divided the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee. WSNAC voted 7-2 on January 8 to expand the area in which UST should concentrate its efforts to purchase student rental properties and convert them to single-family, owner-occupied housing. Two members of WSNAC's Housing Subcommittee subsequently resigned in protest.

The vote also reignited a debate over when UST should build more campus housing. New campus housing is not on the drawing board and will not be for at least another five years while UST constructs a new parking ramp, new student center and other facilities. WSNAC passed a resolution on January 8 asking UST's board of trustees to move up the housing construction plans.

In 2004, as part of the settlement allowing the university to expand its campus to include two blocks south of Summit Avenue, UST agreed to buy and rehabilitate 30 student rental houses in Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland, and then sell them with restrictive covenants that forbid their use as rental housing for at least 30 years. Since then, seven rental homes and one rental duplex have been purchased in the neighborhood, rehabilitated and sold to owner-occupants.

At the direction of WSNAC, the student rental conversion program had been focused in the area between Marshall and Goodrich avenues. Ten conversions were to take place in that area along Cleveland Avenue, 10 between Wilder Street and Cretin Avenue, and 10 between the Mississippi River and Fairview Avenue.

However, WSNAC decided on January 8 to expand that preference area. Now, 15 of the 30 student rental houses would be purchased in the area bounded by Marshall, Prior, Goodrich and Exeter avenues and 15 in the area bounded by I-94, Fairview, St. Clair and Cretin and Exeter avenues.

At issue is whether it is better to purchase student rental homes on blocks that are already dominated by student rentals or on blocks where only a few student rentals have popped up.

WSNAC member Marc Manderscheid questioned whether the blocks closest to campus can be revitalized under the housing buy-back program. "Those blocks are bad now and unfortunately they're going to get worse," he said. According to Manderscheid, revitalizing those blocks may require another program altogether. The housing buy-back program, he said, could accomplish more by concentrating on housing that is closer to local elementary schools, such as Groveland Park and St. Mark's, to attract young families to the neighborhood.

According to several WSNAC members, it is difficult to attract new homeowners to blocks that are already predominantly student rental.

"We've lost so many houses close to campus, neighbors are finding it very hard to live in these neighborhoods," agreed WSNAC member Alyssa Rebensdorf. However, she added, redirecting the buy-back program away from those areas sends the "worst possible message" to neighbors for whom the problems of student rental housing are most severe.

According to Rebensdorf, the expansion of the buy-back program's preference area will dilute the program's effectiveness. "If we go too far afield and convert a student rental

house here and a student rental house there, we're just chasing our tails," she said.

Some members of WSNAC's Housing Subcommittee asked whether by expanding the preference area, WSNAC was suggesting that the blocks closest to campus are no longer worth saving.

WSNAC Housing Subcommittee members Jim Gabler and Shaun McElhatton resigned following the January 8 vote. Thirty houses is a "drop in the bucket" when it comes to addressing the problems related to student housing in the neighborhood, according to Gabler, and expanding the program's preference area will only make it less effective.

McElhatton agreed. "If it's going to be a house here and a house there, it's not going to have any long-term impact," he said.

Rebensdorf said she recently talked to the parent of a UST student who bought a house for the student near Rebensdorf's Macalester-Groveland home rather than closer to campus in Merriam Park because the parent thought a house in Merriam Park would be harder to resell. "The march is moving south," Rebensdorf said. "I guess we're destined south of campus to become the next slum."

WSNAC was established by UST in 2004 at the behest of the St. Paul City Council as part of the campus-expansion settlement. It is made up of representatives of UST, the Macalester-Groveland and District 13 planning councils, the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA) and Neighbors United.

Rebensdorf of Neighbors United and Jim Toscano of SARPA were the two WSNAC members who voted against the change in preference area. The change had the support of the District 13 Council's board of directors. According to Jeanne Matross, who represents District 13 on WSNAC, the council's board recognizes the problem with student rentals on the blocks closest to campus, but wants the buy-back program to have more flexibility in addressing those problems throughout the neighborhood. According to Matross, buying student rentals on blocks where there is already a concentration of such houses could simply move the problems a few blocks further from campus.

The controversy over the preference area for the buy-back program flared up last spring when UST purchased a student rental house at 2011 Stanford Ave. Though the house is in Macalester-Groveland and meets the requirements of the buy-back program, many WSNAC Housing Subcommittee members felt it was too far from campus to have a significant impact.

UST officials are still intent on focusing the housing buy-back program close to campus, according to Doug Hennes, St. Thomas' vice president of university relations. "That helps St. Thomas as well as the community," he said. However, Hennes and UST neighborhood liaison John Hershey said the buy-back program should have the flexibility to address problems related to student rental houses that are farther from campus.

"My hope is that we someday figure out how to expand the buy-back program from 30 houses to 50 or 90 houses," Hershey said.

Toscano urged UST officials to move forward with plans to build new campus housing on the block bounded by Summit, Finn, Grand and Cretin avenues. Such a project could move onto campus as many as 450 students who are living in off-campus housing, he said, "and 450 students is the equivalent of 80 to 90 rental houses."

Hennes pointed out that with its new Selby and Morrison halls, UST recently added 800 on-campus dormitory beds. "We've increased the percentage of undergraduate students living on campus from 35 to 45 percent over the past decade," he said.

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Elect or appoint sheriff: Ramsey County revives debate

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The Ramsey County Charter Commission held the first of four public hearings on January 15 on whether the county charter should be amended to discontinue elections for sheriff and instead have the county's top law enforcement official appointed by the county manager with the approval of the County Board.

All seven people who spoke at the hearing opposed the amendment. In fact, it is difficult to find anyone in county government willing to speak on the record in favor of the change.

Charter Commission chair Mike Fratto wants the commission to decide in May whether to place the proposal on the ballot in November. He would not say where he stands on the issue. "The decision whether to put the question on the ballot should be as apolitical as possible," Fratto said, "because it's not intended to be a referendum on the current sheriff's performance."

However, politics may very well be behind the proposal. The county's current sheriff, Bob Fletcher, is a former St. Paul City Council member, former candidate for mayor and one-time Republican. He was re-elected to his fourth four-year term as sheriff in 2006, narrowly defeating former St. Paul Police Chief

Bill Finney following a bruising campaign that often broke along party lines despite the nonpartisan status of the sheriff's office.

District 5 Commissioner Rafael Ortega declined to comment on the issue. According to his aide, Ken Iosso, members of the County Board believe that debating the issue is best left to the Charter Commission and the electorate. Charter Commission member Peter M. Hendricks had no comment other than to say, "It's good to hear what the public has to say and to put this issue to bed one way or another."

The issue of whether to elect or appoint the sheriff has been debated by the Ramsey County Charter Commission since its inception in 1988, according to Assistant Ramsey County Attorney Darwin Lookingbill. At the time that Ramsey County's Home Rule Charter was being written, it was suggested that it provide for an appointed sheriff, according to Lookingbill. However, there was concern that such a provision would meet strong opposition at the polls and endanger the passage of the charter as a whole.

The county charter, minus the provision for an appointed sheriff, was ultimately approved by voters and took effect in 1992, making Ramsey County the first and still the only county in Minnesota to be governed by

Home Rule. (State statutes govern the other 86 counties.)

In 1995, the Charter Commission revived the debate over whether to appoint or elect the sheriff. "Many of the newer members of the commission thought they owed it to the original members to complete the discussion on the topic," Lookingbill said. The Ramsey County manager and Charter Commission then asked Hamline University's Graduate School to research the issue.

According to the subsequent report, appointing a sheriff has some advantages, including ensuring a greater degree of professionalism. Electing a sheriff runs the risk that voters will choose someone who is unqualified, the report stated, and limits prospective sheriffs to county residents who are willing to go through the rigors of an election. An appointed sheriff would also be subject to the authority of the County Board and manager and less likely to operate counter to their wishes, according to the report.

However, the report added, an elected sheriff provides checks and balances to the power of the County Board, which is especially important in a county that does not have an elected executive.

The report recommended keeping the sheriff's office elective because the current

system was working and had been working for a long time.

In the wake of the 1995 report, the Charter Commission dropped the proposed amendment, according to Lookingbill. However, it revived the discussion in 2005 and last November it approved the wording of the possible ballot question.

Three of the seven people who testified against the proposed amendment on January 15 represented law enforcement organizations, including Jim Franklin, executive director of the Minnesota Sheriff's Association; Mike Carey, business agent for Teamsters Local 320, which represents the Ramsey County sheriff's deputies; and Dale Sommerhause, who represented the Ramsey County Sheriff's Deputies Association.

Franklin referred to the checks and balances that an elected sheriff provides. Carey echoed that argument. "Sheriffs are leaders elected by the public," he said. "That way the buck stops with the sheriff. Too often, appointed officials can pass the buck to middle managers. Appointees are managers, not leaders."

Sommerhause cited an informal poll of 82 of the 130 members of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Deputies Association. "Ninety-seven

SHERIFF SELECTION ► 13

Search begins for school program that will save Homecroft

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The new Homecroft Elementary School Core Advisory Group was given its marching orders on January 15: It has until March 7 to come up with a new program that would attract a minimum of 300 students to the school at 1845 Sheridan Ave.

Homecroft's enrollment currently stands at 256. However, only 123 are from the neighborhood surrounding the school—down from about 275 in 1994-95. The school has also been under mandated "corrective action" since the beginning of the 2007-08 school year for failing to meet "adequate yearly progress" for four consecutive years under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

St. Paul Superintendent of Schools Meria Carstarphen initially proposed closing Homecroft at the end of the current school year and replacing it with a secondary program for students in special education and other alternative learning programs. The advisory group was formed in response to vociferous protests

from neighbors who did not want to lose their elementary school.

Carstarphen wants the new program at Homecroft operational by September. "We understand that 300 students on day one isn't necessarily realistic," she said. "But ultimately the program must have the very strong potential to draw those students."

The superintendent assured members of the advisory group that though she expects them to assist in selling whatever program they come up with for Homecroft, the school district's communications resources will be available to help.

Karen Woodward, an educational consultant from Highland Park, was hired by the school district to facilitate the meetings of the advisory group. Nancy Stachel, the school district's executive director for elementary schools, and Brett Johnson of the school district's communications department will also work with the group, which will meet at least weekly.

"We'll all have to be working hard in be-

tween meetings on research, information gathering and keeping in constant communication with each other and our stakeholder groups," Woodward told the advisory group following its formation on January 15.

Serving on the advisory group are local residents Michelle Beck-Howard, Lisa Morley, Rachel Nelson, Charrie Willis, Chris Ebner, Mike Ireland, Brian Morris and Tim Wilson; Homecroft PTA members and Highland residents Margo Fox and Bill Rosenbloom; Highland District Council president Bill Poulos, vice president Georgia Dietz and board alternate Rick Hugley; Homecroft School parent Marta Kifle; Fred Haeusler of the Jewish Community Center; and Milena Gebremeskel of Neighborhood House. Alternate members of the advisory group are Anne Barrett of the Homecroft PTA and Highland resident Robert Brandtjen.

More than a dozen new programs for Homecroft were suggested at meetings on January 7 and 15 sponsored by the school district. They included the English Language

Learner program now offered at Wellstone Elementary; pairing Homecroft with Adams Spanish Immersion Elementary School; a pre-kindergarten to grade 8 program using overflow students from Highland Junior High; a gifted and talented program; pairing Homecroft with the International Baccalaureate program at Highland Park Elementary School; making Homecroft a second campus for the year-round arts magnet offered at Four Seasons Elementary; a Core Knowledge curriculum emphasizing language arts, math, history, geography, music and visual arts; a community learning center with pre-K to grade 8 in the day and adult college preparatory classes in the evening; a dual-immersion program of two foreign languages or English and another language; a charter school; and an environmental magnet school.

For more information on the advisory group or to make suggestions for a new program for Homecroft, call 651-767-8102 or visit the school district's website at www.spps.org and click on "Homecroft Update."

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Work on a new garage and two-story addition has halted while the owners of the Portland Avenue home attempt to settle a dispute over the project with the owners of the house at left, Garrison Keillor and Jenny Lind Nilsson.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

In Lake Wobegon, it seems, all home improvements are not above average

By Jane McClure

Disputes between neighbors over residential zoning variances rarely make the pages of the *Villager*, much less the *New York Times*. But when one of the neighbors is author and radio host Garrison Keillor, it's another matter.

As this issue of the *Villager* went to press, Keillor and his wife, Jenny Lind Nilsson, were in mediation with their next-door neighbors, Lori Anderson and her fiancé, Paul Olson. Ramsey County District Court Judge Edward Cleary had given the two parties until January 23 to settle their differences over a two-story addition to Anderson's Portland Avenue home.

Cleary asked both parties not to talk with the news media during the mediation period. "We wish we could comment," Olson said. "We'll have more to say when this is over."

Anderson and Olson had planned to replace a one-car detached garage with what they hoped would be a three-car garage attached to the house through a new mudroom and storage area on the first floor and a new studio on the second floor.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) approved a 23-foot rear-yard setback for the project, a variance of 2 feet from the minimum 25-foot setback. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), which reviews construction plans within the Historic Hill District, also approved the addition.

Keillor and Nilsson filed a lawsuit on January 14 and requested a temporary injunction on the project until the lawsuit could be heard. In court documents, Keillor and Nilsson alleged they were not notified of the public hearings before the BZA and HPC. They called the decisions to approve the project "arbitrary and capricious." According to them, the addition would impair the supply of light and air to their property and decrease the value of their home.

"My wife and I live in a historic St. Paul house in a historic neighborhood," Keillor wrote in a statement. "This gives us an obligation to defend the house and the neighborhood against violations of the beauty of Ramsey Hill."

The construction project would add about

1,900 square feet to Anderson's 2,124 square-foot Tudor home, which was built in 1880 and is currently valued at \$600,000. The Keillor-Nilsson home, which was built in 1915, has 5,168 square feet and an estimated market value of \$1.2 million.

The city of St. Paul is also named as a defendant in the lawsuit, which asks the court to throw out the BZA decision, block the addition from being completed and order the reimbursement of their court costs and attorney's fees.

In an interview prior to mediation, Anderson and Olson said they had notified Keillor and Nilsson of their plans before they began the project and had tried to meet with them to resolve the dispute since learning of their displeasure through an e-mail Keillor sent to them in November while they were vacationing in New Zealand.

Anderson's home sits on a lot and a half, and they said they offered to sell some of their land to Keillor and Nilsson as a way of resolving the dispute. Though they had already spent \$50,000 on the project, they said they had two alternative plans drawn up as another possible remedy.

St. Paul City Attorney John Choi said his office has reviewed the case and believes it is without merit. "We believe the BZA and HPC acted appropriately and that their decisions are in compliance with the law," he said.

According to Choi, the city notified Keillor and Nilsson of the public hearings on the Anderson's request—one before the BZA and two before the HPC. With any zoning or HPC matter, the city sends postcards to all property owners within 350 feet notifying them of the public hearing. The postcards are sent to the address registered on Ramsey County property records. In most cases, they go to the property owner's home or business. In Keillor's and Nilsson's case, the postcards were sent to an accounting firm in Bloomington.

While city officials are satisfied with the decision to send the case to mediation, they will take a back seat to the homeowners during the sessions. According to Choi, the city will become involved again if mediation results in changes to the project that require a different variance. That would send the project back to the BZA and the HPC for approval.

governed."

Three more public hearings are scheduled on the proposed charter amendment—at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 4, at the Association of Minnesota Counties, 125 Charles Ave.; at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Vadnais Heights City Hall, 800 E. County Road E; and at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, in the City Council chambers of the St. Paul City Hall and County Courthouse.

Ramsey County residents may also e-mail their comments to sheriffcharteramendment@co.ramsey.mn.us or mail them to the Ramsey County Charter Commission, 250 Court House, St. Paul, MN 55102.

12◀ SHERIFF SELECTION

percent want to keep the sheriff an elected position," he said. "They believe it's important to maintain the sheriff's accountability with the voters and to stay with the history of electing the sheriff. It's the classic if-it-ain't-broke-don't-fix-it situation."

Though Fletcher was cited in the 1995 report as opposing the change to an appointed sheriff, this time around he declined to comment, at least until the public hearings are over. "I will say, though, that I don't believe the public will want to give up the vote for sheriff," he said. "In any case, it's always appropriate for the public to determine how they should be

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District Council News

District 13

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Western District police meetings—Officers at the new Western District Police Station on Hamline and St. Anthony avenues will meet with the public to discuss crime and safety issues at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meetings will be held on Tuesday, February 19. People with specific concerns they want addressed by the police should call 651-266-5632.

Shakespeare Reading Series—The Lex-Ham Community Theater's reading series of the plays of William Shakespeare will focus on *Timon of Athens* at 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 8, at 1184 Portland Ave. The reading will follow a potluck supper. Parts will be assigned at the start of each scene, so everyone will have plenty of chances to read. Participants are asked to bring food to share and a copy of the play. Visit www.LexHamArts.org/theater/Shakespeare/SRS.htm or call 651-644-3366.

District 13 meetings—Board of directors meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 6, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 4, Merriam Park Recreation Center; Neighborhood Issues Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 4, Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.; and Land Use Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, Merriam Park Library.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Board vacancy—There is an opening on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's board of directors for a representative from Grid 5, the area bounded by Summit, Snelling, St. Clair and Fairview avenues. An election to fill the vacant seat will be held at the next board meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 14, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. For more information, call the council office or e-mail the executive director at melissa@macgrove.org.

KidsPark Gala—The fifth annual KidsPark Gala will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 23, in Weyerhaeuser Hall at Macalester College. The event will feature a silent auction, a wine tasting hosted by The Wine Thief and food catered by Whole Foods. Proceeds will benefit KidsPark, the community council's drop-in child-care center. For more information, visit www.kidsparkchildcare.org.

Frost Fest thanks—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Frost Fest on January 12 proved to be a big success. Neighbors donated 191 pounds of food for Keystone Community Services' food shelf. That was more than twice what was collected at last year's Groveland Night Out. Key contributors were the Groveland Recreation Center staff, Chris Englemann, Keystone Food Shelf, the Green Institute, Widmer's Supermarket, St. Paul Corner Drug, Snuffy's Malt Shop, ArtScraps and Coffee Bene.

Mark your calendar—Transportation Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 28, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

Summit-University

www.Summit-U.com • 651-228-1855

Volunteer recognized—Summit-University resident Rena Moran was honored at the city of St. Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll celebration on January 11 at the University of St. Thomas. The annual event recognizes the work and contributions of citizen volunteers. Moran has done phenomenal work with her block club and with promoting Summit-University's resident leader program. Her name will be added to the Neighborhood Honor Roll plaques on display outside the City Council chambers in City Hall.

Desktop computer sought—The Summit-University Planning Council needs a replacement desktop computer, one that has a good amount of memory and can operate Windows XP or Vista. For information, contact community organizer Irna Landrum at the SUPC office.

Volunteers welcome—Area residents are invited to volunteer to help with the work that the Summit-University Planning Council does. Visit the "You Can Help" section on the SUPC website to learn more. Sponsorship opportunities for the website and the planning council's electronic and print newsletters are also available. Visit the electronic newsletter page for information or to sign up.

Recycled information—Recycling pickup in the Summit-University neighborhood is conducted every Wednesday. Recyclable material should be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. For information, call the Recycling Hotline at 651-222-7678.

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Organizer hired—Kathy Carruth has been hired as the Highland District Council's new community organizer. Carruth is a Highland Park resident who grew up and attended school in the neighborhood. Her background is in business and finance, and she has been an active volunteer and leader in local school, church, youth athletics and other activities. She brings to the position extensive experience in organizing, event planning, volunteer coordination and fundraising. As community organizer she will work with the HDC board to address planning, development, transportation, crime, city services and other concerns. She succeeds Georgia Dietz, who took a leave of absence from the board last September to fill the position on a temporary basis.

Special board meeting—The HDC will hold a special board meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 29, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., to discuss the state of the community council's finances. Discussions are on-going with the IRS, the 2007 budget cycle is almost over and talks are being held with city officials regarding the use of unspent city grant money from 2007 to help pay the taxes owed.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee meeting with city traffic engineer Paul St. Martin at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 28, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; and Executive Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 31, at Hillcrest.

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Education

Minnehaha makeover

Academy spends \$12 million to rebuild its South Campus in the image of its North Campus

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Founded 95 years ago as a high school that emphasized Bible and business studies, Minnehaha Academy has made huge strides since it purchased the former Breck School campus at 4200 West River Pkwy. in 1981 and added a program there for pre-kindergarten through grade 8.

Minnehaha's Lower and Middle Schools are located a mile south of the high school, and they are in the midst of a \$12 million renovation that will give the two campuses a unified appearance. The project will also bring the South Campus

into the 21st century with the latest technology in education and energy efficiency.

The South Campus currently enrolls nearly 600 students. Its original building was constructed in 1956 and it was "tired," according to Middle School principal Dean Erickson. Upgrades were needed in plumbing, electricity and handicapped accessibility, he said.

When the project is completed later this year, the Lower and Middle Schools will have a Georgian brick exterior and clock tower similar in appearance to the high school's up the road. In addition to new energy-efficient heating, air condi-



Minnehaha Middle School principal Dean Erickson follows the progress on the new South Campus chapel.



Work continues on the new entry and commons area on Minnehaha Academy's South Campus. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

tioning, lighting and windows, the project will give the South Campus two new art rooms and a choral and orchestra rehearsal room. The administrative offices and more than half of the classrooms are also being renovated.

The new technology is impressive, according to Kathy Johnson, Minnehaha's director of development. The classrooms have been outfitted with Promethean boards, an interactive teaching tool that encourages creativity in students and allows teachers to monitor their students' understanding of lesson concepts almost instantly.

Some teachers, on seeing the renovated classrooms for the first time, were overwhelmed, according to Johnson. "They had tears in their eyes," she said. "It was just lovely."

Johnson was familiar with the need for renovation. She helped establish Minnehaha's kindergarten program in 1985 and served as principal of the Lower School before becoming the development director four years ago.

The task force that planned the renovation project began meeting in 2003 and immediately identified parking and traffic flow as a major concern. "We draw students from all corners of the Twin Cities, and

we have a lot of them whose parents drive them to school," Erickson said. "School buses were parked in the same lot as cars. Children were walking between parked and moving cars to get to their buses." A new parking lot and a new route for cars dropping off and picking up children have improved both safety and efficiency.

But perhaps the most significant component of the project is the new chapel. Integrating religious faith into all aspects of education has been Minnehaha Academy's primary focus all along, Johnson said, and the task force was firm in its conviction that a prominent chapel was necessary. Though Minnehaha is owned by the Northwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, its students come from all denominations of Christian faith as well as other religions.

The chapel should be ready by Easter Sunday, March 23, and worship services will then move out of the basement where they have been held for years.

"The students are excited about the changes in general," said Charice Deegan, the Lower School principal. "With school in session, it's been fun for the students to be a part of the project. It's been a great learning

experience for them."

The capital campaign that is paying for the project designated \$10 million for renovation of the original building and construction of the chapel. Another \$1 million, which is expected to be raised by March, will be used to renovate the academy's ice arena. The final \$1 million will be used to bolster the school's endowment.

Raising \$12 million has been a challenge in the current economy, Johnson said. Compounding the challenge was the fact that most of Minnehaha's alumni did not attend the Lower or Middle Schools. However, the capital campaign has succeeded in raising nearly \$8 million to date, and a group of alumni recently established a challenge grant, offering to match any additional donations up to \$750,000.

"Our school is unique," Johnson said. "The academics are rigorous, and 99 percent of our kids go on to college. The way we integrate faith into learning affects every aspect of their lives. They come out of Minnehaha Academy well prepared for college and with a strong sense of the need to serve others."

A formal dedication of the newly renovated South Campus is scheduled for October 5.



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All 12 Notes is instrumental in teaching love of music

BY SUE LEE

Allison and Mike Cramer, founders of the All 12 Notes music school, are helping more and more students of all ages learn and appreciate music. The school takes its name from the 12 notes of the chromatic scale.

All 12 Notes opened in January 2005 at the corner of Cleveland and Randolph avenues, but after growing to more than 100 students taking private lessons and nearly 30 students enrolled in each group class, the school recently moved to larger quarters at 2075 Ford Pkwy. in Highland Village. The lower-level space, which previously housed the Highland Life Care Center, now has a waiting area, a large room for Kindermusik classes and three music studios for private lessons.

Kindermusik classes are offered to children up to age 7 as well as their parents. "Kindermusik is heavily based on the Orff-Schulwerk approach while using aspects of other approaches, including Kodaly, Suzuki and Dalcroze," said Allison, who lives in Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood. "Using the Orff-Schulwerk approach, students are actively engaged in music through playing, singing, moving and speaking. Rhythm is highly emphasized, as it is the basic element of music."

Kindermusik is based on the belief that every child is musical, that the parent is the child's most important teacher, and that the home is the most effective learning environment, she said.

All 12 Notes offers six Kinder-



Samantha Rosenthal, 7, practices piano with Becky Hanson at All 12 Notes school. Above, Allison Cramer teaches preschoolers using a doll to show rhythm.

PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

musik classes ranging from Kindermusik Village for children ages newborn to 1½ and their parents, to Kindermusik Young Child for children ages 5-7. A Sign & Sing class for children ages 6 months to 3 years and their parents will be offered during the next semester, which begins January 28. The focus will be on language development through sign language in the context of music and movement.

"Improvising and composing music are also central to our approach," Allison said. "I use the same approach in teaching Kindermusik and in teaching my private piano students."

One of those students, 9-year-old Rebecca Lindholm, has been taking private piano lessons from Allison for the past year. She was sitting in the reception area of All 12 Notes

with her mom, Lynne, waiting for older sister Rachel to finish her piano lesson. Rachel has been taking lessons for 2½ years.

While she was there, Rebecca signed up to perform in the next All 12 Notes showcase, which are held monthly at Coffee Bene coffee house on Cleveland and Grand avenues. "My sister and I played a duet at the last showcase," she said.

The showcases give All 12 Notes students the opportunity to perform in public. "Students enjoy hearing other students play while their families enjoy the opportunity to gather and share in the community of music," Allison said. The next showcase will feature student performances at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 9. All 12 Notes students also perform at an annual spring recital.

In addition to piano, All 12 Notes

offers lessons in electric bass, mandolin, and electric and acoustic guitar. Lessons are offered in half-hour or hour blocks. Blues guitar and swing guitar classes are currently being offered for all ages. On the second and fourth Mondays of the month there is a free flat-picking jam.

The cost for private lessons varies with instructor, but generally averages \$25 per half-hour session. Kindermusik classes range from \$150 to \$250 for 10 to 15 sessions per semester. Students may begin lessons or classes at any point during the semester.

Allison described the All 12 Notes faculty as "exceptional instructors who genuinely care about their students and promote lifelong enjoyment of music."

Allison has a bachelor's degree in

music education from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) and is now working toward a master of arts in music education at the University of St. Thomas. She has been teaching beginning and intermediate piano and French horn for nine years.

Her husband Mike teaches guitar, mandolin and electric bass. He also has a bachelor's degree in music from UNI and was previously an adjunct guitar instructor at Grinnell College. He has shared the stage with or opened for such performers as B.B. King, Debbie Duncan and the JazzMN Big Band.

Vladan Milenkovic, a pianist and composer, teaches piano at All 12 Notes. He received classical training from a young age and played in a jazz trio in the former Yugoslavia before receiving a scholarship to study at Berklee College of Music in Boston. He recently completed his master's degree at UNI and is currently on the faculty of Augsburg College.

Anna Haugen, who teaches piano, has a degree in elementary education with a minor in music from the University of Minnesota-Morris. She has taught piano for five years and has served as a substitute elementary school music teacher.

Becky Hanson also teaches piano and has a bachelor's degree in music performance from St. Cloud State University. She has performed with the St. Cloud Symphony, the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony and the Mid-America Wind Ensemble. She is also a member of the local rock group Atomic Flea.

Open houses help parents make smart choice on area schools

Parents will have a chance to explore which schools might best meet the needs of their children in the coming weeks when local school districts host informational fairs and open houses.

In St. Paul, parents shopping for schools can learn about the many choices available to them by attending the 2008 Parent Information Fair from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 2, in Roy Wilkins Auditorium at St.

Paul RiverCentre.

All regular St. Paul public schools, as well as many charter, private and parochial schools, will be represented at the fair. Information also will be available about early childhood education, English Language Learner programs, programs for gifted students and special education services. Parents will be able to talk with staff regarding the school selection process and how to complete an application

form. Interpreters will be available.

The fair is free and preregistration is not required. Free parking with shuttle service to the fair will be available at Sears, 425 Rice St., and at the school district's headquarters, 360 Colborne St.

The application deadline for attending public schools in St. Paul next year is February 29 for secondary schools and March 7 for elementary schools. For information, call 651-

767-8101 or visit www.spps.org.

Minneapolis families with children entering kindergarten or changing schools through grade 8 next fall are required to fill out a school request card by February 29. High school requests were due by January 15. Call Student Placement Services at 612-668-1840.

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Capitol Hill

Gifted and Talented Magnet School
a Saint Paul Public School

Challenging Academically Gifted Learners in a Diverse School Community

Open House

Junior High February 21 at 6:30 pm

Elementary March 3 at 6:30 pm

560 Concordia Avenue
Enter the Blue Doors

For Info Call 651-325-2500
www.capitolhill.spps.org

16 OPEN HOUSES

District 197, an open house for students planning to attend Sibley High School will be held in the next few weeks. Middle school information nights and kindergarten open houses also will be held from now through spring. Call 651-681-2307.

Following is a list of the open houses and kindergarten roundups yet to come:

ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Secondary

Capitol Hill Magnet, 560 Concordia Ave. Showcase for grades 7-8 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21. Call 651-325-2500.

Central Senior, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy. Showcase from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 6. Call 651-632-6000.

Highland Park Junior, 975 S. Snelling Ave. Showcase from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, February 4. Call 651-293-8950.

Highland Park Senior, 1015 S. Snelling Ave. Showcase from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Call 651-293-8940.

Monroe A+ Arts, 810 Palace Ave. New program in '08. For grades 7-8 showcase information, call the school at 651-293-8690.

Ramsey Junior, 1700 Summit Ave. Showcase from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Call 651-293-8860.

Elementary

Adams Spanish Immersion, 615 S. Chatsworth St. Open house from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 12. Kindergarten orientation at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1. Call 651-298-1595.

Benjamin E. Mays, 560 Concordia Ave. Open house at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 28. Kindergarten orientation at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 13. Call 651-325-2400.

Capitol Hill Magnet, 560 Concordia Ave. Open house at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 3. Call 651-325-2500.

Expo for Excellence, 540 S. Warwick St. Open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Kindergarten orientation from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8. Call 651-290-8384.

Four Seasons A+, 340 Colborne St. Open house at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Pre-K and kindergarten roundup at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 29. Call 651-290-7595.

Groveland Park, 2045 St. Clair Ave. Open house and kindergarten orientation from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 28. Call 651-293-8760.

Highland Park, 1700 Saunders Ave. Open house from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 12. Kindergarten orientation from 4:30 to

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. Call 651-293-8770.

Homecroft, 1845 Sheridan Ave. Options for new programming will be determined by this spring. Call 651-293-8955.

Horace Mann, 2001 Eleanor Ave. Open house from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Kindergarten orientation at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 24. Call 651-293-8965.

J.J. Hill Montessori, 998 Selby Ave. Open house from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Call 651-293-8720.

Linwood A+, 1023 Osceola Ave. New program at two campuses in '08. See Monroe for upper grades. Open house (grades K-3 or K-4) from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 21. New student orientation from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22. Call 651-293-6606.

Longfellow Humanities, 318 Moore St. Open house from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, February 28. Kindergarten orientation from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15. Call 651-293-8725.

Monroe A+ Arts, 810 Palace Ave. New program in '08. See Linwood for lower grades. Open house (grades 4-8 or 5-8) from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 20. New student orientation from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22. Call 651-293-8690.

Museum Magnet, 560 Concordia Ave. Open house at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 12. Kindergarten orientation at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20. Call 651-325-2600.

Randolph Heights, 348 S. Hamline Ave. Open house at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 19. Kindergarten orientation at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 27. Call 651-293-8780.

Webster Magnet, 707 Holly Ave. Open house at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Kindergarten orientation from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8. Call 651-293-8625.

K-12 schools

Bridge View (special education), 360 Colborne St. Open house from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, August 29. To arrange a tour, call 651-293-8640.

St. Paul Open, 90 S. Western Ave. Secondary and elementary open house from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Kindergarten orientation from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 15. Call 651-293-8670.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Avalon School, 1745 University Ave. Open houses for grades 7-12 at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 9, and at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 29, and Wednesday, February 27. Call 651-649-5495.

OPEN HOUSES ► 18

Math Tips for Parents

How to help your child become mathematically fluent

A Different Way to Think about Percent

Example: Find 5% of 300.

5% of 300 = 15

because 5% means "count 5 for each 100".

So for **300 (100 + 100 + 100)**, count **5**, three times (**5 + 5 + 5 = 15**).

Try these:

- 1) 7% of 300 = _____
- 2) 6% of 500 = _____
- 3) 15% of 300 = _____
- 4) 25% of 400 = _____
- 5) 20% of 500 = _____
- 6) 12% of 300 = _____
- 7) 6% of 200 = _____
- 8) 6½% of 200 = _____
- 9) 8% of 50 = _____
- 10) 7% of 50 = _____
- 11) 6% of 150 = _____
- 12) 12% of 250 = _____
- 13) 8% of 225 = _____
- 14) 7% of 250 = _____

Mathnasium's Philosophy:

Children don't hate math. They hate being confused and intimidated by math. With understanding comes passion. And with passion comes growth—and a treasure is unlocked.

"Math Tips for Parents" was adapted from ideas developed by Larry Martinek, the creator of the **Mathnasium Method**. The strategies outlined incorporate Mathnasium's program philosophies and draw deeply on Larry's more than 30 years of experience as a math teacher, educational consultant, and father. These ideas serve as a guide for parents who want to help their children to learn and love math.

When we say "Nobody Teaches Math Like We Do", we mean that literally.



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651.698.MATH

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School of Engineering**

**GRADUATE
INFORMATION
SESSIONS**

- Meet School of Engineering faculty, staff and alumni.
- Learn more about the school's purpose and philosophy.
- Ask questions regarding its master's degrees, graduate certificate programs and graduate courses.

Information Sessions

- Thursday, Jan. 31
- Thursday, April 10
- Thursday, Feb. 21
- Thursday, May 1
- Thursday, March 13
- Thursday, May 22

School of Engineering
O'Shaughnessy Science Hall, 5:30 p.m.
University of St. Thomas (south campus)
Free parking available

Register by contacting
jataylor1@stthomas.edu
or call (651) 962-5756

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- Grades 7-12 Sports
- K-12 Access to Library and Technology.
- All Day Kindergarten
- 3 and 5 day Pre K
- Small Class Size
- Tuition Free

Visit us @ the Parent Info Fair, Feb. 2
 Kindergarten Info Night, Thursday, Feb. 7th @ 6:30 pm
 Public Tours, Wednesday at 9:30 am
 651-776-5151 #333
<http://cpa.charter.k12.mn.us>

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17 ◀ OPEN HOUSES

Cyber Village Academy, 1336 Energy Park Drive. Open house from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13. Call 651-523-7170.

Great River School, 1326 Energy Park Drive. Open house for Montessori grades 7-12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, January 24. Call 651-305-2780, ext. 103.

Nova Classical Academy, 1668 Montreal Ave. Admission event for grades K-8 at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 7; and for grades 6-8 at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, February 23, at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, and at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10. Call 651-227-8622.

Twin Cities Academy, 426 Osceola Ave. Open houses for high school program at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 26, and at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 5; and for middle school program at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19. Call 651-205-4797.

Twin Cities German Immersion, 1399 Eustis St. Information sessions from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sundays, January 27 and February 17, and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Call 651-492-7106.

Yinghua Academy, 1355 Pierce Butler Route, the first Chinese immersion elementary school in the Midwest. Informational session from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, February 9. Call 651-379-4112.

DISTRICT 197 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Henry Sibley Senior High, 1897 Delaware Ave., Mendota Heights. Ninth-grade open house and registration at 6:00 p.m. Monday, February 4. Call 651-681-2351.

Friendly Hills Middle School, 701 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights. Parent information session for incoming 5th-graders at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15. Call 651-905-4100.

Heritage Middle School, 121 W. Butler Ave., West St. Paul. Information nights at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, April 1-3. Call 651-905-4000.



First-graders work on a project at Yinghua Academy charter school.

Garlough Elementary, 1740 Charlton St., West St. Paul. Kindergarten open house from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 23. Call 651-405-2673.

Mendota Elementary, 1979 Summit Lane, Mendota Heights. Kindergarten open house at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 29. Call 651-405-2451.

Moreland Elementary, 217 W. Moreland Ave., West St. Paul. Kindergarten open house from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 31. Call 651-405-2531.

Pilot Knob Elementary, 1436 Lone Oak Road, Eagan. Kindergarten open house from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 27. Call 651-405-2788.

Somerset Elementary, 1355 Dodd Road, Mendota Heights. Kindergarten open house from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 5. Call 651-405-2631.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Friends School of Minnesota, 1365 Englewood Ave. Open house from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 5. Call 651-917-0636.

Highland Catholic, 2017 Bohland Ave. Kindergarten roundup at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 5. Call 651-690-2477.

OPEN HOUSES ▶ 19

Sunny Hollow Montessori

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Now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year

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Open House
 Mon., Feb. 4
 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Please call 651-293-8950 for additional day time tours

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Tuition assistance available.

For more information please call Pat Lofton, School Principal, at 651-224-4836, ext. 303.

✦ School Information Night & Open House, January 31, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
 ✦ Kindergarten Story Hour Friday, February 8, 1 p.m.

Northeast corner of Lexington and Summit Avenues in Saint Paul

School Notes

Pacific Intercultural Exchange is seeking local families to host foreign high school students for the upcoming semester. The students speak English, have their own spending money, and carry accident and health insurance. Families may claim a \$50 per month deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student. Call 1-866-546-1402.

World Heritage Student Exchange is seeking families to host high school students from Europe, Asia and Mexico during the 2008-2009 school year. Call Bonnie Miley at 952-423-3597 or visit www.world-heritage.org.

The Experimental College of the Twin Cities is offering its fourth semester of free and open classes on topics ranging from capoeira to global warming. Classes typically meet once a week on evenings or weekends, and will take place all over the Twin Cities. Register by visiting www.EXCOtc.org or attending an EXCO informational session from noon to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 26, in Room 303 at Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis; or from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, February 2, in the second floor atrium at the Macalester College Campus Center, 1600 Grand Ave. For information, call 651-696-8010 or e-mail excotc@gmail.com.

Continuing education classes sponsored by St. Paul College will begin soon. There are openings in "Your Speakeasy: Presentation and Sales Skills" from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 5, at the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center on Ford Parkway and Mount Curve Blvd. (\$74); "Parenting Your Parent" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, February 14, at St. Paul College Campus, 317 Marshall Ave, (\$29); "Introduction to Indoor Rock Climbing" from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at Vertical Endeavors, 845 Phalen Blvd. (\$65); "Introduction to Kettlebells" from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 23, at the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center (\$39); and "Beginning Russian" from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Saturdays, February 23-May 3 at St. Paul College (\$89). Call 651-846-1800 or visit training.saintpaul.edu.

Mendota Elementary School, 1979 Summit Lane, Mendota Heights, is offering preschool story hours from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday in the school library. Storyteller Sara Waters enhances the stories with rhymes, singing, autoharp and violin music. Children will be treated to puppet friends and have fun learning numbers and letters. The themes for the next three weeks is "Words" on January 23, "Body" on January 30 and "Farm" on February 6. Call Nancy Schwartz at 651-405-2851 or visit www.isd197.org.

18◀ OPEN HOUSES

Holy Spirit, 515 S. Albert St. Kindergarten roundup at 1:00 or 6:00 pm. Wednesday, January 30. Middle School open house from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Call 651-698-3353.

Minnehaha Academy. Open house for preschool-8th grade at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, February 21, at the South Campus, 4200 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis. Call 612-728-7756.

Minnesota Waldorf, 70 E. County Road B. Preschool and kindergarten open houses from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturdays, February 23 and April 26. Information event from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13. Call 651-487-6700.

Mounds Park Academy, 2051 Larpenteur Ave. E. Open house from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, February 10. Call 651-748-5577.

Nativity, 1900 Stanford Ave. Open house from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 31. Call 651-699-1311.

St. Francis-St. James United, 486 View St. Open houses from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the week of January 28-February 1. Kindergarten roundup from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 30. Call 651-228-1167.

St. Paul Academy and Summit School. Open houses on Sunday, January 27, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for the Lower School (K-5), 1150 Goodrich Ave., and from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for the Upper and Middle Schools (6-12), 1712 Randolph Ave. Call 651-698-2451.

St. Mark's 1983 Dayton Ave. Kindergarten roundup at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 24. Call 651-644-3380.

St. Thomas Academy, 949 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights. Entrance exams for middle schoolers at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, January 26. Call 651-454-4570.

St. Thomas More, 1065 Summit Ave. Open house from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 31. Kindergarten story hour at 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 8. Call 651-224-4836.

Talmud Torah of St. Paul, 768 S. Hamline Ave. Preschool open house at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, February 24. Call 651-698-8807.

Visitation, 2455 Visitation Drive, Mendota Heights. Open house for the Middle School (grades 6-8) at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 23. Call 651-683-1700.

Editor's note: Earlier open houses were listed in the previous issue of the Villager.

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ADMISSION EVENTS:
 •Thurs., Feb. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (K-8)
 •Sat., Feb. 23, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (grade 6-8)
 •Tues., March 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (grade 6-8)
 •Thurs., April 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (grade 6-8)



GUIDED TOURS (call for appointment):
 Tuesdays-Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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Pre-K through 8th grade



Preschool & Kindergarten Open House
 Saturday, February 23
 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Visit our beautiful mixed-age kindergarten and meet our inspired teachers. All ages welcome.

Information Evening
 Thursday, March 13
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

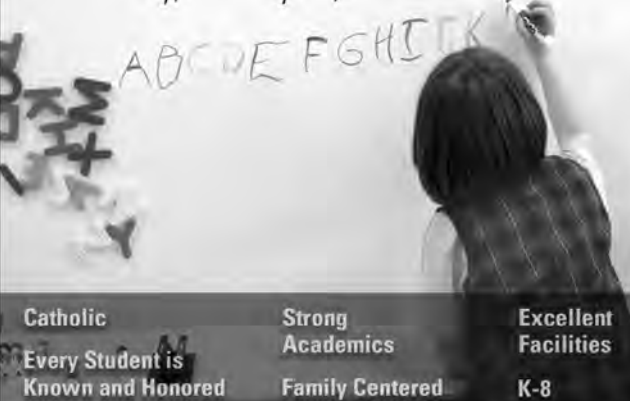
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 Wednesday, January 30, 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM



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For more information or a personal tour, call Dr. Adrian, Principal, at 651-698-3353.

www.holy-spirit.org

Lower School K-4 Middle School 5-8



Admissions Open House
 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. February 5th
 1365 Englewood Avenue, St. Paul
 651-917-0636 www.fsmn.org



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For more information, call our Admission Office at 651-698-2451, or visit our website: www.spa.edu.

Open House: January 27, 2008

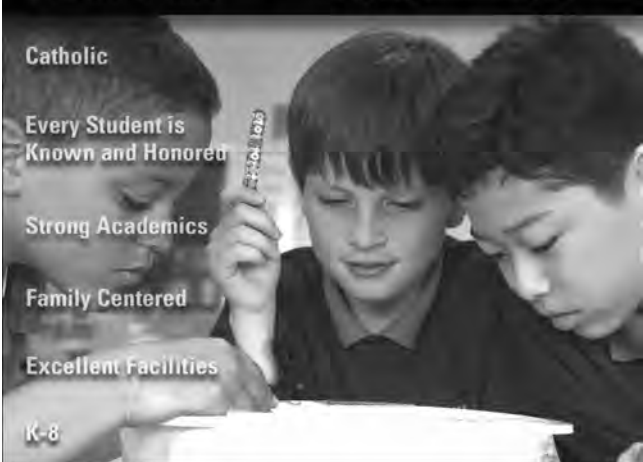
Lower School Grades K-5: 1-3 p.m. Head of School remarks at 2 p.m. 1150 Goodrich Ave., St. Paul

Middle and Upper School Grades 6-12: 3-5 p.m. Head of School remarks at 4 p.m. 1712 Randolph Ave., St. Paul

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**MIKE JAMBOR
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651-695-4303**



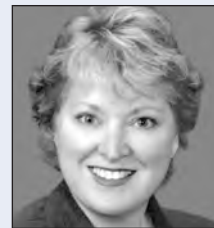
**MARNA HOLMAN
651-282-9619**



**ROBERT GIBB
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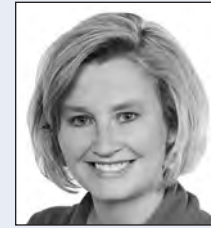
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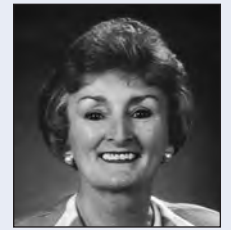
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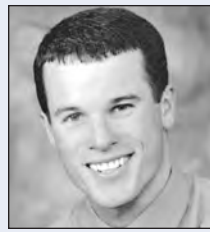
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* Size and color of bouquet may vary. Another variety of flower may be substituted based on availability. Offer ends 2/9/08. Limit one bouquet per tour.

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Crime Report

The following police calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For more information, visit www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/communitywatch.htm.

Highland Park

Robbery—Ethio Market on West Maynard Drive was robbed at gunpoint at about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 26. The two suspects fled before police arrived.

—Suspects entered Cooper's SuperValu, 2481 W. 7th, at about 6:45 a.m. Thursday, December 27, and tried to take money from the cash room, but fled empty-handed.

Burglary—A house on the 1700 block of Field Avenue was entered on Wednesday, December 26. Neighbors found the rear door open. Police were unable to make contact with the owner of the house.

—The front door was pried open in an attempted burglary at Taco Bell on West 7th and Davern streets between 3:30 and 7:30 a.m. Monday, December 24.

Theft—More than 60 checks were stolen from a package that had been mailed to a home on the 1800 block of Highland Parkway between noon Thursday, December 20, and 4:00 p.m. Friday, December 21.

—Surveillance cameras caught a suspect trying to steal a plasma TV from the community room at Highland Pointe condominiums, 1800 Graham Ave., at about 9:00 p.m. Thursday, December 27.

—A TV was stolen from the lounge at River Crossing Apartments, 1735 Graham Ave., between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Monday, December 31.

—The laundry room was forced open and cash was stolen from the money machine at Rockwood Place Apartments, 2259 Rockwood Ave., between 10:00 p.m. Sunday and 6:00 a.m. Monday, December 30-31.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—Pad Thai Grand Café, 1681 Grand Ave., was robbed at gunpoint at about 11:00 p.m. Saturday, December 22. Three male suspects entered through the rear door and threatened employees with a shotgun. The suspects fled with about \$420 in cash.

Burglary—A rifle was stolen from a home between December 25-28 on the 100 block of South Snelling Avenue.

Weapons—Neighbors called 911 to report a man with a gun near Fairview and James avenues at about 11:30 p.m. Thursday, December 27. Police arrested two juveniles with BB guns.

Miscellaneous—Someone damaged a 2000 Lexus with a bat or club between 1:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Friday, December 21, at Fairmount and Cretin avenues.

Merriam Park

Theft—A 20-year-old Merriam Park man was arrested in the lobby of an apartment complex on the 400 block of Herschel Street at about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 26. He was wanted for auto theft and burglary. Several stolen vehicles were found parked nearby. Witnesses told police they saw the suspect driving the stolen vehicles.

Assault—A 20-year-old man was arrested for assault on the 400 block of West Lynnhurst Avenue at about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 19. He had fought with another tenant in the building and then fought with police and spit on an officer.

—Police arrested a 24-year-old Merriam Park man for assault and terroristic threats on the 400 block of North Fairview Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Saturday, December 29. Several tenants in the building were arguing over accusations of a child molestation when the suspect used a knife to assault another man.

Weapons—A juvenile dropped a handgun in the street and a woman picked it up and refused to give it back to him on Snelling

and University avenues at about 6:30 p.m. Saturday, December 22. The boy assaulted the woman and forcibly took back the gun before fleeing on foot.

Theft—A stereo and purse were stolen from a 1996 Plymouth Breeze at the University of St. Thomas between 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Friday, December 21. A bank card had already been used at a nearby SuperAmerica by the time the theft was discovered.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A home on the 1500 block of Marshall Avenue was broken into around 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 28.

—A Spider lift, valued at \$16,000, was stolen from the garage at Painting by Nakasone, 1509 Marshall Ave., between 5:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, December 27-28.

Summit Hill

Burglary—Several items were taken from a home that was broken into on the 900 block of Lombard Avenue between 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 21.

—A house on the 900 block of Lombard Avenue was broken into between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 2.

Robbery—Two men robbed two women of their purses at Summit Avenue and Victoria Street at about 5:15 p.m. Friday, December 21. The suspects were 20-30 years old and were wearing hooded sweatshirts and scarves or bandanas over their faces.

Theft—A security camera was stolen from Saji-Ya, 695 Grand Ave., at about 6:30 a.m. Saturday, December 29.

Summit-University

Burglary—Electronic products were stolen from a home that was broken into on the 800 block of Laurel Avenue between 11:00 a.m. Monday and 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 24-25.

—Cash and a laptop computer were stolen from an apartment that was burglarized on the 800 block of Laurel Avenue between 5:30 p.m. Monday and 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 24-26.

Robbery—A man was robbed of his wallet at gunpoint at Grotto and Selby avenues at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 20. The suspects fled on foot.

—Two suspects robbed a man at Dayton Avenue and Oxford Street at just after midnight Saturday, December 22. The suspects assaulted the man on the street and stole his cell phone. One of the suspects reportedly threatened to kill him.

—Two suspects robbed a man at gunpoint at James J. Hill School, 998 Selby Ave., at about 7:00 a.m. Monday, December 24. The suspects were described 18-25 years old, 150-180 pounds. One was wearing a navy blue jacket with brown fur on the hood and baggy jeans and displayed a handgun. The others was wearing a dark winter hat and a dark jacket.

—A pedestrian was robbed at Selby Avenue and Dale Street at about 7:00 a.m. Monday, December 24.

—A man was robbed of his wallet at gunpoint at Avon Street and Selby Avenue at about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 26.

Theft—A wallet and cell phone were taken from a vehicle at the Cathedral of St. Paul between noon and 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 25.

West End

Robbery—Three young males used a handgun to rob Cooper's SuperValu, 633 W. 7th St., at about 7:45 a.m. Thursday, December 27. About \$100 in cash was taken.

Assault—Suspects assaulted a cab driver at Randolph Avenue and Milton Street at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday, December 20. The suspects refused to pay the fare and assaulted the cabbie when he protested. The suspects fled on foot before police arrived.

Food



Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

Fern's is fabulous for all-around goodness

I hate to say I told you so," my friend said in a tone that suggested she very much relished the opportunity to tell me so. She was right, of course: I should've made reservations. But I got sidetracked and neglected to make the call. Besides, it was after noon in the middle of the week. How busy could Fabulous Fern's Bar & Grill be?

Plenty busy, it turned out.

"I can seat you in the bar," the hostess said.

I balked at first, recalling the days when the sports bar adjacent to the restaurant was pretty smoky. For some reason, I keep forgetting that all bars are now smoke-free in Minnesota.

Though the well-appointed restaurant was packed with local politicians and business people, the bar was relatively quiet, with only a few scattered couples and a handful of retirees playing backgammon. Our group of five raised the activity level a couple of notches.

According to the restaurant's website, Fern's took for its inspiration La Mome Bijou, or Miss Diamonds, the bejeweled Parisian barfly who is portrayed in a 1930s photograph by Brassai and who is said to have been the inspiration for Giraudoux's 1945 play *The Madwoman of Chaillot*.

Miss Diamonds' life revolved around fine food and drink. To meet what may have been her expectations, Fern's carries a vast array of libations and boasts a menu that combines "the ordinary with the unusual."

My friends and I started with what we considered unusual and worked our way toward the ordinary.

For appetizers, we ordered the mussels (\$9.25) and bruschetta (\$7.95). I'm not a particularly big fan of shellfish, but the mussels steamed in sambuca (an aniseed-flavored liqueur) and white wine with red pepper flakes, red onion and tomato with basil, were prepared to perfection and not the least bit chewy. However, the big hit was the sauce. The wonderful basil sourdough French bread slices that accompanied the appetizers quickly disappeared as everyone soaked up the slightly



A sampling of Fabulous Fern's fare (clockwise from lower left): dusted chicken wings, bruschetta and composed salad with Thai peanut chicken.

PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

sweet and salty sauce and finished off the tomatoes.

The bruschetta was devoured with only slightly less enthusiasm. The ciabatta (an Italian white bread) with pesto, diced tomato, extra virgin olive oil and basil was grilled just right and had a wonderful flavor, although some at the table felt that the fresh parmesan piled on top should've been melted.

One of my companions ordered the composed salad with Thai peanut chicken (\$8.95) off the regular menu. It featured a heaping plateful of Thai-spiced chicken and rice noodles on mixed greens dressed with peanut sauce and framed in mushrooms, radishes, tomatoes and green peppers. The mushrooms were a bit on the dry side, but that was the only quibble.

Also off the regular menu was the fettuccini with chicken (\$11.95), sautéed chicken, zucchini and mushrooms tossed in a garlic cream sauce. The large portion of pasta was appropriately al dente, and the chunks of chicken were generous, but the cream sauce was a bit heavy and not particularly flavorful.

We also ordered from the special menu that changes every week, and none of us was disappointed. The shrimp and bacon salad (\$10.95) came with a generous portion of large, moist, chilled shrimp and bacon with spinach tossed with sun-dried tomatoes, balsamic vinaigrette, croutons, hard-boiled eggs and cucumbers. Pretty as a picture.

The K.B. (\$9.25), served with fries or a salad, consisted of pounded pork loin grilled and dipped in Fern's kalbi sauce—a barbecue sauce traditionally made with soy sauce, sugar, garlic, ginger, sesame oil and red and black pepper—with sautéed mushrooms and provolone cheese with a sweet and spicy mustard on an onion bun. If you like slightly gooey, tasty, pork

sandwiches, this is right up your alley. I devoured half of it, then enjoyed the other half for lunch the next day.

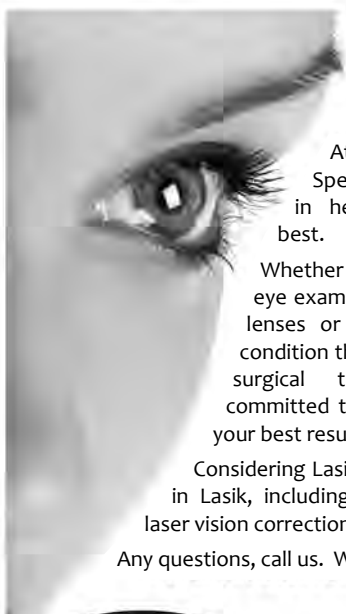
The dusted wings (\$9.25) were six whole deep-fried chicken wings, dusted with Cajun spice and served with a ranch and tangy orange mustard sauce. The skin was appropriately crunchy, the meat was juicy, the Cajun spice was just short of searingly hot and the tangy orange mustard sauce was great.

Our server forgot the chicken tortellini soup (\$3.95), but brought it out immediately after she was reminded. It was a hearty, tasty stock, but I'm just taking my brother and sister-in-law's word for it, because they ate it all. No Christmas gift for them next year.

For dessert, we once again ordered off the special menu. The warm tiger brownie (\$5.25) sat on what tasted like a layer of toasted coconut and was topped with chocolate caramel cashew ice cream served with chocolate and caramel sauce. It was decadently delicious and provided each of us with at least one bite.

Next time I go to Fern's, I want to try the Cajun meatloaf (\$10.95). I'm also hoping someone invites me to a party and serves Fern's crab rangoons from the bar buffet menu (\$3.95 with a minimum order of 20).

It's too easy to say that Fabulous Fern's is, well, fabulous, but any restaurant entering its 17th year is obviously doing something right. Yes, it has a great location on Cathedral Hill's restaurant row, but consistency is even more important. Fern's keeps bringing people back with good food, a great presentation, efficient service and a comfortable menu that allows for some adventure.



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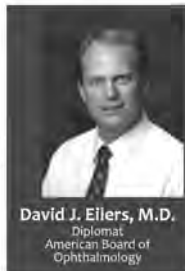
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Logging seven days as 'locavores' in the dead of a Minnesota winter

BY BARB PARISEIN

Barbara Kingsolver did it for a year in Virginia. Twin Cities Natural Food Co-op members did it for two months at the height of the Minnesota harvest. I did it myself for much of last summer and fall.

By "it," I mean eat local. It was easy. I simply walked out my back door, harvested lettuce, peppers, a carrot or two, onions, tomatoes—whatever was in season—and supplemented the produce with a trip to the farmers' market or local grocer.

"Locavore," or someone who eats locally grown food, was recently named Word of the Year for 2007 by the *New Oxford American Dictionary*. That convinced me to take the challenge and be a locavore in the dead of a Minnesota winter.

It was 10 degrees below zero on January 2 when I informed my husband, Lou, "We're going to eat local for the next week."

"What? We'll starve!"

"No," I assured him. "You'll be surprised how much local food we can find at this time of year. Besides, we can cheat a bit. Barbara Kingsolver cheated; she used coffee beans from South America."

In the next few days, I drew up the rules and exceptions for our week-long experiment in eating local:

1. Lou and I would be allowed to finish the clementines I bought the previous week.

2. Our definition of "local" would include anything grown in Minnesota and its bordering states. There are locavores who adopt the 100-Mile Diet, eating only items from within a 100-mile radius. Too strict for me in the winter. Then there's the 250-Mile Diet. I could live with that, but there might be some tasty South Dakota bison I'd miss.

3. We'd aim for eating 80 percent local; four out of every five items should be doable.

4. We'd make an exception for coffee, spices, herbs and condiments.

What's as important as eating local, according to Joan Dye Gussow, author of *This Organic Life*, is using up, making do and cutting down. With Gussow's blessing, then, I could use up the holiday goodies still in my refrigerator, make do with a bunch of months-old kale, cut down on tropical fruit and begin.

If only I'd planted my garden last summer with more root vegetables and cabbage. If only I'd a root cellar like my grandparents. If only I'd frozen and canned more produce

last fall. I did freeze pasta sauce, tomatoes and pesto from my garden. I canned salsa, cucumbers and beets. I froze several quarts of hand-picked strawberries. But that was it—pretty measly compared with the larder of my grandmother.

Day 1: I trek to Mississippi Market, our local food co-op. Pushing a cart through the produce section, I ask Joe the manager how much of the produce is local at this time of year. He points out the beets, purple and gold turnips, celery root, black Spanish radishes, daikon radishes, potatoes, horseradish root, red onion, parsnips, red cabbage, mushrooms, Jerusalem artichokes and hydroponic lettuce. "That's about it," Joe says. "You're better off settling for produce from California at this time of year."

I smile my thank-you, but California is against the rules. I then grab the items Joe pointed out, wondering what I'll do with the ugly black Spanish radish, lumpy celery root and gnarly artichokes. It reminds me of the "stump the cook" segment on Lynne Rossetto Kasper's radio show, in which callers list five items in their refrigerator and challenge Kasper to come up with an edible concoction.

Moving on with my grocery cart, I'm encouraged by the abundance of local dairy and meat products. I pick up organic eggs from the Larry Schultz Farm near Owatonna and frozen berries from Sno-Pac of Minnesota. My favorite hot cereal comes from Whole Grain Milling of Welcome, Minnesota, and we have wild rice at home from the White Earth Indian Reservation, a round of bison summer sausage from Eichten's near Center City, and baguettes from French Meadow Bakery in Minneapolis.

I pick up a pound of ground beef from the Thousand Hills Cattle Company near Cannon Falls and hydroponic lettuce from Labore Farms of Faribault. I then head home to thaw the pasta sauce I'd made with garden tomatoes, peppers, onions, basil and carrots. Tonight, Lou and I will also finish off the Argentine wine that a neighbor brought to our New Year's party. Too many miles in that wine, but as Gussow says, we must use up. This won't be bad at all.

Day 2: I boil water for our 8 Grain Cereal, to which I add hand-picked strawberries from the freezer and a splash of Wisconsin milk. At lunch, we use up the leftover hummus, bean dip and fruit from New Year's. For dinner, I



Winter staples for Minnesota "locavores," the root vegetables (clockwise from upper left) daikon radish, celery root, beets, parsnips, red cabbage, Jerusalem artichokes, purple parsnips, black Spanish radish, more Jerusalem artichokes, red potatoes and gold turnips (in the middle).

pull out a bag of kale that I harvested in November. I splash a bit of olive oil in a pan and add garlic, chopped onion and the chopped kale. I open a bag of frozen tomatoes and add rosemary, thyme oregano, white beans and chicken broth. I'm satisfied that at least eight of the 10 items in my soup meet my definition of local.

Day 3: Breakfast today and much of the week is the 8 Grain hot cereal with frozen strawberries and Wisconsin milk. Lunch is leftover bean-kale soup. Tonight Lou and I celebrate our 34th wedding anniversary at the nearby Heartland restaurant, which features a Midwest cuisine made with ingredients from regional producers. My roasted beet salad at Heartland includes Wisconsin blue cheese and Iowa prosciutto. Lou's romaine salad includes cheese from Illinois. My entrée is South Dakota bison ragout with heirloom potatoes, baby turnips, cipollini onion and Wisconsin button mushrooms. Lou's lake trout comes from Michigan. His daikon radish slaw is from Minnesota.

Day 4 starts with a walk to the local coffee shop, our Saturday ritual. Between errands, I gulp a glass of cider from the local Hoch apple orchard and a couple of cranberry-orange scones from a mix made by Tea-dle-dee of St. Paul. Tonight we feast on Minnesota wild rice soup, a salad of red lettuce from Labore, a few slices of Spanish black radish and crumbled Wisconsin cheese.

Day 5: Breakfast is local eggs with buckwheat pancakes and Wisconsin maple syrup. Today I figure out what to do with those Jerusalem artichokes and celery root. Deborah Madison's *Vegetarian Cooking for Everyone* offers many possibilities, including her Winter Vegetable Stew with Jerusalem artichokes, a rich broth that I enhance with a cup of dry red wine.

Day 6: This evening, I sauté local red cab-

bage with Granny Smith apples (organic, but not local), a tablespoon of caraway seed and a splash of apple cider vinegar. To brown basmati rice I add hot Italian-style sausage from Pastures-A-Plenty of Kerkhoven, Minnesota. I may be only 50 percent local today, but the meal is so good.

Day 7: I still have a pile of locally grown root vegetables to use. I could take the easy way out and make root soup, but I challenge myself with a five-course meal—the finale to my experiment—served with a celebratory Spanish champagne. For appetizers, I sauté Jerusalem artichokes with sunflower seeds and herbs. Then I sauté black Spanish radish and daikon radish in butter with shallots and herbs. I roast beets, turnips and parsnips. I also use the beets in a salad with hydroponic lettuce and Wisconsin cheese. I peel the celery root like an orange, then slice it and local red potatoes, top them with Wisconsin Gruyere cheese and pop the gratin in the oven. I thaw a package of Kadejan chicken tenders from Glenwood, Minnesota, roll the chicken in flour and braise it with mushrooms. A dish of Wisconsin cranberries adds a flash of crimson.

Preparing the five-course meal is a three-hour marathon. "It's not worth it," Lou says.

"It's just an experiment," I reply. "Tomorrow we can go back to eating imports."

But it isn't true. We can't go back. It has been a week of mindfulness. Though I may not have lived up to my 80 percent goal, I have thought seriously about the origin of every morsel that crossed my lips. When I go grocery shopping tomorrow, I won't binge on tropical fruits. I'll think about the truck loads, ship loads and plane loads of food circling the globe. Even in the dead of a Minnesota winter, one can find much local produce. I'll just sneak in a clementine now and then.



Lynn with Andrea Melberg Thompson, Children's Miracle Network

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The Kiosk

Thursday/January 24

"ISRAEL CONNECTIONS," a monthly program on events in Israel, will meet at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-698-0751.

A WORLD WAR II HISTORY Roundtable on "The Greatest Generation in Normandy" will be presented at 7:00 this evening at historic Fort Snelling. French historian Dominique Francois will speak on the relationship that developed between the people of Normandy and their American liberators. Admission is \$5.00 and free for students. Call 612-726-1171.

Saturday/January 26

A HABITAT RESTORATION program will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 this afternoon at Crosby Farm Regional Park on Shepard Road and Davern Street. National Park Ranger Tom Ibsen will tell stories about the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers while volunteers drag and pile non-native buckthorn for removal. This program will further the restoration of the oak savanna and help restore historic views of the Mississippi River. Call Ibsen at 651-290-3030 ext. 233.

A WINTER GALA will be hosted by the Talmud Torah of St. Paul today at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. The evening will feature tributes, silent and live auctions, and entertainment by the ORIM Israeli Dance Troupe. A pre-gala dinner with limited seating requires a reservation; the main gala is open to the public. Call 651-698-8807.

THE ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY will hold an open house from noon to 4:00 this afternoon at all five of its locations, including the one at 1115 Beulah Lane. The St. Paul open house will include a spin-the-wheel game with prizes, animal experts, site tours, and a chance to meet a St. Paul Police K-9 unit, a dogsledding team and a therapy dog team. Call 763-522-4325.

A SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon at Fort Snelling State Park. Participants will learn the safe and fun ways of snowshoeing and how people throughout history have used the devices. The program is free, though a state parking permit is required. Snowshoes are limited, so registration is required. Call 612-725-2724.

Sunday/January 27

A JAZZ BRUNCH will be held by the American Association of University Women from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at the St. Paul College Club, 990 Summit Ave. A jazz group and a visit by the St. Paul Winter Carnival Senior Royalty. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children. Call Dianne Peet at 651-621-1900.

A PANCAKE BREAKFAST will be served by Cub Scout Pack 82 between 8:00 a.m. and noon today in the lower level of Holy Spirit Church, 512 S. Albert St. The cost is \$3.50-\$5.50. Call 651-690-0793.

SKINS AND SKULLS will be examined at 1:00 this afternoon at Fort Snelling State Park to learn how various animals adapt to survive. Admission is free. Call 612-725-2724.



Wintry fun at Groveland Park. Ice skating, snowman making, music and refreshments were on tap when the Macalester-Groveland Community Center held its inaugural Frost Fest on January 12 at the Groveland Recreation Center. A week later, the Groveland rink provided a frigid setting for the fourth annual Outdoor Hockey Classic, which pitted the Visitation/St. Paul Academy United girls' hockey team against the Minneapolis Novas. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD (ABOVE) AND BRAD STAUFFER (BELOW)



Monday/January 28

A PUBLIC MEETING on the environmental review process for the Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant property will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. Representatives from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Ford and Arcadis (Ford's environmental assessment consultants) will describe how the review process works, timeline for investigation and cleanup, and early findings from the Little League fields and elsewhere on the site. Visit www.stpaul.gov/ped/fordsite or call Merritt Clapp-Smith at 651-266-6547.

Tuesday/January 29

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will hold an open poetry session during its conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

"IT'S YOUR BODY! Nutrition & Fitness," a lecture for teenage girls and their parents, will be offered at 7:00 this evening in the Village View Room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The lecture will be presented by Yolanda McIntosh, contributing author to *The Young*

Woman's Guide for Personal Success. Call 651-695-3700.

A CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP will meet at 7:00 this evening at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. There is no charge. Call 651-698-0767.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening in the parking lot across from the J&S Bean Factory on Randolph Avenue and Saratoga Street (two blocks east of Snelling Avenue). Call 651-646-6421.

Thursday/January 31

THE MINNESOTA WOMEN'S Consortium will celebrate its 28th anniversary with a gala from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. The gala will honor 10 "Dreamers and Doers" who have worked toward equality for women. The program will be emceed by Minnesota Public Radio "Morning Edition" host Cathy Wurzer and will include hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and an excerpt from the musical theater piece "Meeting at Seneca Falls. Attendees pay their age or \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. Call 651-228-0338.

THE HIGHLAND BUSINESS Association will host its annual dinner from 5:30 to 10:00 this evening at the 934th Airlift Wing

Officer's Club off Highway 5 and Post Road. The cost is \$25-\$30. Call 651-699-9042.

Friday/February 1

A SPAGHETTI DINNER will be served between 5:00 and 7:00 this evening at Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave. The cost is \$3.00-\$6.00, or \$11 for families. Call 651-645-0851.

THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST RODEO will be held at 7:30 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Xcel Energy Center. Twelve "Toughest Cowboy" contenders will compete in match play against one another in all three rodeo disciplines. There also will be girls' barrel racing and new Chuck Wagon races. A post-show "dirt dance" will take place both nights. Tickets are priced at \$17-\$47, with kids 12 and younger paying half price. Call 651-989-5151.

Saturday/February 2

THE WINTER FLOWER SHOW will open today and run through March 16 in the Sunken Garden of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Zoo. Hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday/February 3

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon in the parking lot of the Cathedral of St. Paul. Call 651-646-6421.

Monday/February 4

FREE JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE will be offered by Kevin Corcoran of Goodwill-Easter Seals from 10:30 a.m. to noon today in the small conference room at the Highland Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL chair Peter Bell will highlight regional progress and discuss opportunities and challenges facing the Twin Cities in his State of the Region address from 10:00 to 11:30 this morning in the Pohlad Auditorium at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. Tours of the library will follow the event. To register, call 651-602-1140.

STATE SENATOR RICHARD COHEN (DFL, District 64) will speak about the American Civil Rights Movement during a program at noon today at the Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 E. Ivy Ave. Cohen's interest in the movement has drawn him to southern cities such as Jackson, Birmingham and Selma. He has interviewed activists, Klansmen and murderers. The cost is \$25. Register at www.minnesotahumanities.org.

AN AARP SENIOR DRIVER safety refresher course will be offered from 5:00 to 9:00 this evening by the Continuing Education Department at St. Paul College, 317 Marshall Ave. The fee is \$14. Call 651-846-1800.

Tuesday/February 5

"FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS: Pathway to Success," a lecture for teenage girls and their parents, will be offered at 7:00 this evening in the Village View Room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The lecture will be presented by Yolanda McIntosh, contributing author to *The Young Woman's Guide for Personal Success.* Call 651-695-3700.



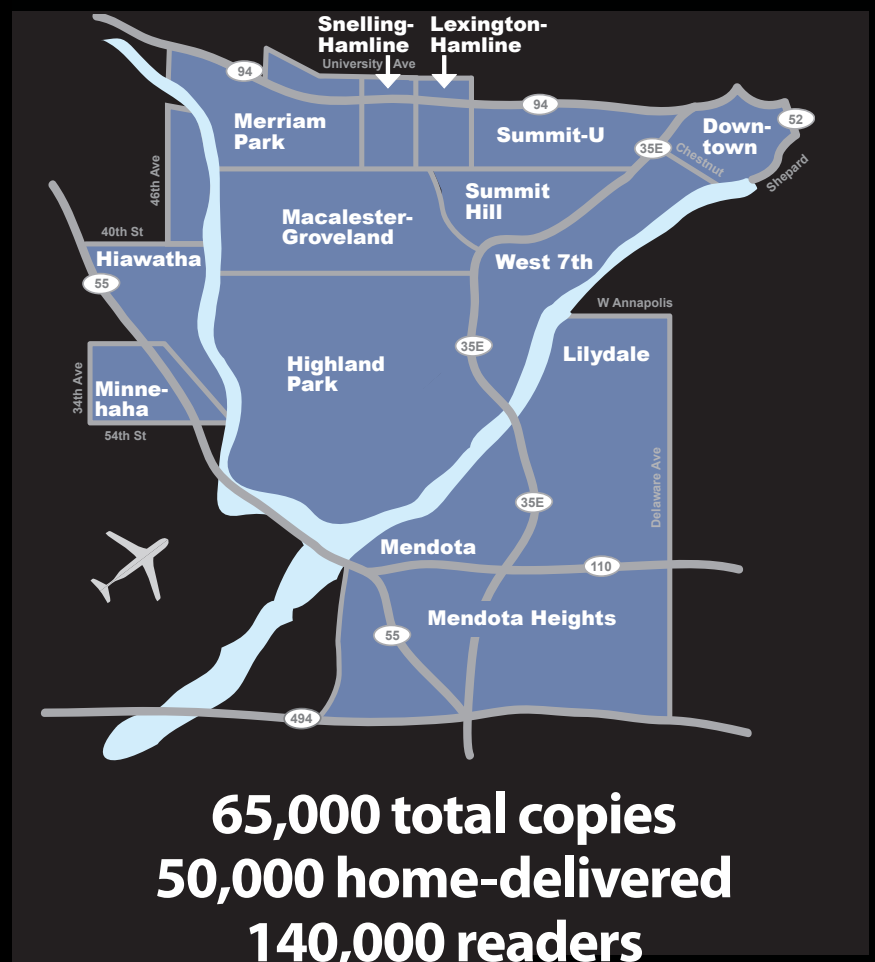
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On the Town

New take on old master Ensemble composes a strategy for building an audience for Bach

By JUDY WOODWARD

Bach's Cantata No. 39 begins with a two-note motif that is repeated in succession by recorders, oboes and violins. The choir then enters, singing "Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot." Taken from the Bible's Book of Isaiah 58:7, the German verse translates as "Break bread with the hungry."

Some musicologists think the repetition of notes was Bach's way of describing the breaking of bread. To Paul Boehnke, the new artistic director of the Bach Society of Minnesota, the musical phrasing is "like pleading from all quarters of the world to break bread. What I find engaging about Bach is the emotional range—the way he's able to shape the feelings of listeners."

The Bach Society will perform Cantata No. 39 on Saturday, January 26, in the opening concert of its 2008 season. Another cantata and motet by Bach as well as his Brandenburg Concerto IV are included in the program, which will begin at 8:00 p.m. at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave.

The theme of hunger will run throughout the concert as a tribute to the good works of the emergency food shelves in the Twin Cities. The audience is being encouraged to bring a donation of nonperishable food.

Boehnke's plan is to have the Bach Society partner with charitable organizations in several future endeavors as well. "The idea is to connect the art world to the rest of the world," he said. He would also like to enhance the Bach Society's connections with

amateur musicians. "The main problems for any arts organization are funding and (finding) an audience," he said. "Building a community for amateur musicians will help create an audience for professional concerts."

Boehnke's plan is to devote one arm of the Bach Society to the impeccable artistry that audiences have come to expect from the 76-year-old institution. The other arm, which is still in the planning stage, will be aimed at the "many people who want to play and sing music but are not professional," he said. "We might sponsor a day-long workshop where amateurs learn a Bach cantata and then perform it. To share a music stand with a professional might be a great experience. But it's not even about the music. It's about doing things together. The goal is to build a community."

The Bach Society was founded in 1932 by University of Minnesota music professor Donald Ferguson. By the mid-1950s, the ensemble had become a veritable "Bach and brew" club with a membership in the hundreds. However, Minnesotans' musical tastes changed and interest in the society steadily declined. Early this decade, the group all but disbanded, but it was revived in 2005 by Thomas Lancaster, University of Minnesota professor emeritus of music and the choirmaster at House of Hope.

Lancaster pared the choral society down to an elite group of professionals who concentrated on the sacred works of the Baroque era sung to the accompaniment of period instruments. Upon Lancaster's retirement in 2007, Boehnke was tapped to lead the organization.

A resident of St. Paul's West End, Boehnke, 48, is the music director at Olivet Congregational Church in Merriam Park. As the Bach Society's harpsichordist for the past three seasons, he knows the challenges of interpreting Bach. "It's daunting," he said. Though he has no intention of "making a big break" from the society's direction the past three years, he does have a few innovations in mind, including a greater emphasis on Bach's instrumental works and an occasional departure from the sacred repertoire.

"Anything by Bach is fair game," Boehnke said, noting that one of the society's three concerts this season will feature songs by the maestro on such secular topics as smoking a pipe and having an affair.

Another innovation involves program notes written by Mary Burke,



Artistic director Paul Boehnke leads the Bach Society in rehearsal. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

46, a Macalester-Groveland writer and musician who composes program notes for several other local classical music groups. For the Bach Society's upcoming performance, Burke will not just write the program notes, she will recite them.

"(Boehnke) thought it up," she said. "His idea is that listening to the program notes will help people know more about the music they're going to hear."

Burke's notes will delve into the nature of hunger in the Baroque era. Bach wrote near the end of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), a devastating conflict that pitted Protestants against Catholics and led to widespread famine and disease throughout Central Europe.

Boehnke hopes Burke's recitation of the program notes will help break the ice for the audience. Classical musical performances can be intimidating for the uninitiated. "People sometimes feel uncomfortable at classical concerts today," he said. "Audiences in Bach's time behaved very differently."

Bach's audiences were generally church congregations who heard the music as an integral part of their Sunday services. However, other audiences of the 17th and 18th centuries behaved more like rock fans.

"At the Paris Opera, they used armed guards to break up fights," Boehnke said. "When people liked the music, they'd sing along with the performers. It would be great to get back to that comfort level."



Bach Society oboist Stanley King.

Bach Society opens 76th season

The Bach Society under new artistic director Paul Boehnke will open its 76th season on January 26, kicking off a series of three concerts, all at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave.

The first concert, at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, January 26, will feature the society's vocalists and orchestra performing Bach's Cantatas 39 ("Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot") and 187 ("Es Wartet Alles"), Motet: Lobet den Herren and Brandenburg Concerto IV.

The second concert, at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, February 24, will be a recital featuring

solo organ music by Bach and his teachers performed by Kathrine Handford.

Chamber music will be featured in the third concert at 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 28. Songs, cantatas and sonatas by Buxtehude and Bach will be sung by bass Bradley Greenwald and soprano Carrie Henneman Shaw to the accompaniment of violins, viola da gamba and harpsichord.

Series tickets are \$50, \$40 for seniors over age 62 and \$30 for students. Tickets for individual concerts are \$20, \$17 for seniors and \$12 for students. They will be available at the door or may be reserved by visiting www.bachsocietymn.org.

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On the Town Briefly

Dance

Iguan Dance Theatre of St. Petersburg, Russia, will perform "Displaced Persons" January 24-26 at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A mix of modern dance, pantomime and drama, the show begins at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. For tickets, priced at \$18, call 612-340-1725.

Full Circle, the dance company of Visitation School and St. Thomas Academy, will perform "Perspective," a thought-provoking look at relationships in spoken word, movement and dance, on January 25-27. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday in Visitation's DeSales Auditorium in Mendota Heights. Admission is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. Call 651-454-4570.

Music

The Schubert Club presents free hour-long concerts at noon on Thursdays in Courtroom 317 at Landmark Center. Featured on January 24 will be Scott Hagarty on cornetto and harpsichord and Julian Clarkson on sax. January 31's line-up includes soprano Jennifer Swanson and pianist Juan Li. Bag lunches are welcome at the event. The Schubert Club provides the coffee. Call 651-292-3267.

One Voice Mixed Chorus will present "Uncommon Light: Brahms and the Beauty of Shadow" on January 25 and 26 under the direction of Grammy Award-winning conductor Vance George. Central High School's Concert Choir will join the chorus in the shows, which begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. Works by Palestrina, John Rutter and Elizabeth Alexander will be sung as well as Brahms' "Nänie" and "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling

Place." Tickets are \$25 and \$18, \$10 for students and seniors. Call 651-298-1954.

Pianist Jon Kimura Parker will join the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in concerts January 24 through February 3. SPCO concertmaster Steven Copes will direct the concerts, which will feature Mozart's Quintet in E-flat and Piano Concerto No. 21 in C and Bartók's Divertimento for String Orchestra. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 24, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley; 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 31, at Temple Israel in Minneapolis; 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday, February 1, at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie; 8:00 p.m. Saturday, February 2, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave.; and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 3, in the Great Hall at Bethel University in Arden Hills. Tickets are \$10-\$25, or \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

The Zeitgeist quartet will perform new works by local professional and amateur composers at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, January 26, at Unity Church, 732 Holly Ave., and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 2, at Grace University Lutheran Church, 324 Harvard St. SE. in Minneapolis. The program includes "Susquehanna" by the late Eric Stokes, "Porkuindapine" and a prelude by Eric James Brook and works by 2008 Eric Stokes Song Contest winners Justin Busch of St. Paul, Karl Nord, 16, of Scandia and Greg Marsh, 17, of Mound. The concert at Unity will also feature Webster Elementary School musicians in a work they composed with Zeitgeist's Patrick O'Keefe. Admission is by donation with \$10 suggested. Call 651-755-1600.

Capital City Brass Quintet will perform music from *West Side Story* and *Porgy and Bess* as well as "Northern Light Fanfare" by David Evan Thomas and "Santa Barbara Sonata" by Bramwell



"Tango Fire," featuring the seductive power of the tango as interpreted by the 10 dancers of Estampas Porteñas and the four musicians of Quatrotango, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 31, in Northrop Auditorium. The program traces the tango from its origins in Argentina through the glamour of the Roaring '20s to contemporary ballrooms. Tickets are \$52, \$42, \$36 and \$31. Call 612-624-2345.

Tovey on Sunday, January 27. The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave. Admission is free, but donations of nonperishable food or cash will be taken for the Merriam Park food shelf.

The four-piece Whistlepigs String Band will be joined by State Fair fiddle champ Catie Jo Pidel, 14, in a celebration of the release of their new CD, "Fenceline," on Saturday, February 2. The bluegrass begins at 7:30 p.m. at SteppingStone Theatre,

55 N. Victoria St. Tickets are \$10, or \$20 with a CD.

The Twin Cities Women's Choir will join Bruce Henry and band on Saturday, February 2, in the program, "I Am Beautiful, America," including new compositions by Henry, Joan Griffith and Ann Reed. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance, \$17 for students and seniors. Call 612-333-8292.

Theater

The Walleye Kid, a modern folktale about a Korean girl's search for identity in her adoptive land, is being performed through February 3 by Mu Performing Arts. The magical musical was written by R.A. Shiomi, Sundraya Kase and Kurt Miyashiro. Directed by Jon Cranney, it stars Francesca Dawis, Marcus Quiniones, Sherwin Resurreccion, Sara Ochs and Momoko Tanno. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday (7:00 p.m. on January 27) in the Ordway's McKnight Theater. Tickets are \$25, \$23 for students and seniors. Call 651-224-4222.

Park Square Theatre is presenting the area premiere of Lisa Kron's 2006 Broadway hit *Well* through February 10 on the stage at 20 W. 7th Place. The hilarious, touching and utterly original comedy about a mother-daughter relationship stars Barbara June Patterson, Heidi Bakke, Faye Price, Edwin Strout and Emil Herrera. Preview performances are January 22-24 with the opening on January 25. For curtain times and tickets, call 651-291-7005.

The Meeting, a play by Jeffrey P. Stetson about an imagined 1965 meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., is playing through February 15 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Terry Bellamy, Darien Johnson, and Ashford J. Thomas star in the story about two giants of the civil rights movement, one who believes there will never be peace without justice and the other who believes there will never be justice without peace. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Monday, January 21; at 10:00 a.m. January 23-25, 30, 31, February 1, 5-8 and 12-15; at 8:00 p.m. Saturdays, January 26 and February 2; at 2:00 p.m. Sundays, January 27 and February 3; at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, January 31 and

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February 7; and at 8:00 p.m. Friday, February 1. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-292-4323.

We Gotta Bingo, the long-running interactive comedy by Actors Theater of Minnesota, has been extended through February 17 at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. Spend a crazy evening at a church supper complete with bingo, live music, polka dancing and a full bar. Show times are noon and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are priced from \$45 to \$66, which includes dinner. Call 612-673-0404.

Romeo and Juliet, Charles Gounod's adaptation of the Shakespearean tragedy, will be performed January 26 through February 3 by the Minnesota Opera. Tenor James Valenti and soprano Ellie Dehn star as young lovers who are doomed by the bitter enmity between their families. Sung in French with the English translation projected above the stage, the show will begin at 7:30 p.m. on the two Saturdays, Tuesday and Thursday and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 3, at the Ordway. Tickets are \$20-\$150. Call 612-333-6669.

The Celtic origins of Groundhog Day will be related through the shadow puppetry of Dan Palno and the storytelling of Nancy Antenucci in "The Groundhog's True Shadow" on February 1-3. Live music accompanies this hour-long program, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, 11:00 a.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. Tickets are \$12, \$7.00 for children. Call 651-645-5506.

The 24-Hour Play Project, six new short plays written, rehearsed and performed in a day, will be presented on Saturday, February 2, as a benefit for Theatre Unbound. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show begins at 8:00 at Neighborhood House, 179 E. Robie St. Competing playwrights include Brenda Bell Brown, Mariah Christensen, Eli Effinger-Weintraub, Toni Halleen, Gemma Irish, Christopher O. Kidder, David Lind, Elissa Mautner, Ben Tallen, Ruth Virkus and Mic Weinblatt. Their directors are Cherie Anderson, Jenna Lory, Miriam Monasch, Gretchen Weinrich and Laura Wilhelm. Silent and live auctions and complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will also be part of the fun. Tickets are \$35, or \$50 for two. Call 612-721-1186.

Exhibits

"Collective History Touches Personal Experience," photographs that offer a personal or historical perspective on Israel, are being shown through February 8 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Part of the "Israel@60" series, the exhibit is free and open to all. Call 651-698-0751.

What do Hubert Humphrey, Prince and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team have in common? They are all part of "MN 150," an exhibit celebrating the 150 people, places and things that have done the most to change the course of history in Minnesota. The multimedia show continues well into Minnesota's sesquicentennial year of 2008 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. A related family program will be held from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, February 9, with host Bruce A. Henry, ageless sax player Irv Williams, comedian Beth Gilleland, guitarist Dean McGraw and the School of Rock's Road Crew playing the music of Minnesota artists. Admission is \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and students, \$4.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

"Woodturning in Basic Black," a stunning variety of works by 14 top studio artists, are on view through April 18 at the Gallery of Wood Art in Landmark Center. The exhibit is open to the public free of charge from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from noon to 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Call 651-484-9094.

"Mysteries in the Mud: Climate Change in the Big Woods," an interactive exhibit that shows how climate change helped form Minnesota's Big Woods and what effect it could have in the future, is being displayed through April 11 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Touch and see lake sediment, view it under a microscope and analyze how differences in vegetation reflect past climate changes. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16, and free to children under age 3 and to everyone else on Sundays. Call 612-624-7083.

"Tradition and Innovation," a showcase of the textile art of Ghana, West Africa, including the batiks of Dorothy Amenuke and the adinkra cloth of the Boakye Family Workshop, will be shown January 24 through February 22 in the Third Floor Gallery of the Library at Metropolitan State University, 645 E. 7th St. An opening reception is scheduled from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 24. Call 651-793-1631.

"Ilo.Minn," featuring the work of 25 commercial illustrators working in Minnesota, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 24, in the College of Visual Arts Gallery, 173 N. Western Ave. A moderated discussion of the art will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 31. Admission is free. Call 651-290-9379.

The art of the Capitol and the artists who created it will be showcased from noon to 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 25, at the state Capitol. Tourists will learn about the muralist movement in the U.S. a century ago, the use of allegory and symbolism in public art of the era and architect Cass Gilbert's overall vision for the building. A costumed actor will portray John La Farge, who painted the murals in the Supreme Court Chamber. The cost is \$8.00, \$7.00 for seniors and students and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. A St. Paul Winter Carnival button is worth a \$2.00 discount. For reservations, call 651-296-2881.

Recent drawings by Minnesota artists Joyce Lyon and Alexis Kuh and others drawn from the Weisman Art Museum's permanent collection are being shown through February 20 in the Katherine E. Nash Gallery of the Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A free public reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, January 25. A panel discussion with Kuhr, Lyon and Lyndel King and Diane Mullin of the Weisman will take place at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 11, in the In-Flux Auditorium at the Regis. Call 612-624-7530.

Hundreds of orchid plants owned by individual and commercial growers will turn the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in Como Park into a tropical wonderland during the Orchid Society of Minnesota's Winter Carnival show from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, January 26 and 27. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children age 12 and younger. The six-week Winter Flower Show in the Conservatory's Sunken Garden opens on February 1. Come in out of the chilly bleakness and stroll among vibrant azaleas, cyclamen, veltheimia and amaryllis. Admission is by donation from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Artists and photographers are invited to set up tripods and easels and work in the Conservatory between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 10, at a cost of \$5.00 per person.

"The Enemy Within," an exhibit recalling events in which Americans were threatened within their own country, will open January 26 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Created by the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., the traveling exhibit examines revolution, sabotage, subversion, assassination, ethnic and racial hatred, violent protest and political extremism along with the government's response and the threat to civil liberty. An opening

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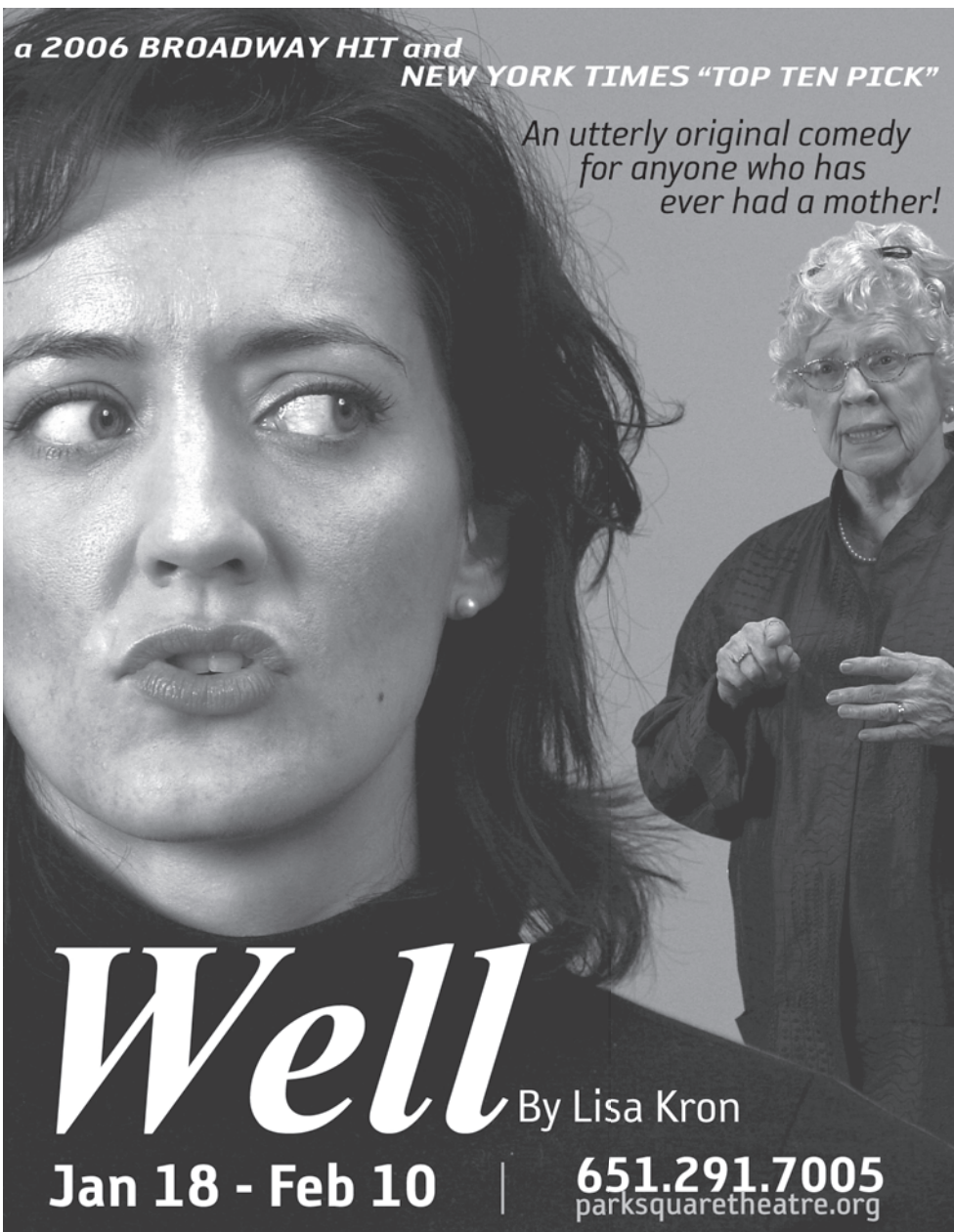
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reception featuring an in-depth look at the traveling exhibit and the issues it raises will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 29. Historian Annette Atkins and curator Patrick Coleman will discuss the times Minnesotans lived in a state of fear at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 12. Admission is \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and students, \$4.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-250-3000.

"Judith Rood-Body Songs," a retrospective of Rood's work from 1967-1991, will be displayed January 28 through March 2 in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at the College of St. Catherine. Call 651-690-6644.

"Bitter Fruits," a study of women as object in art and how contemporary artists have responded to this tradition, will be displayed January 31 through February 28 at Altered Esthetics, 1224 Quincy St. NE. in Minneapolis. More than 80 artists working in sculpture, painting, photography and performance art are included. An opening reception is scheduled from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, February 1. Call 612-378-8888.

"Anxiety Dreams," screen prints, drawings, painted dishware, video, performance pieces, photography and painting, will be displayed February 1-28 in the "Q" Gallery of the Qarma Building, 1224 Quincy St. NE. in Minneapolis. Commenting on their own dreams are local artists J.M. Culver, Caitlin Karolczak, Noah Keesecker, Alex Kuno, Noelle McCleaf, Ellen Mueller, Lindsay Noble, Andy Sturdevant and Tonja Torgerson. Call 612-378-8888.

Books

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt will be discussed on January 26 by Teens and Tweens, a free reading group for youths that meets at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The young readers will discuss *Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food* by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson on February 9, and *The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld on February 23. Call 651-266-7029.

Chia Youyee Vang will discuss her new book *Hmong in Minnesota* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 30, at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, it tells of immigrants who have struggled to maintain their cultural identity while adjusting to life in the U.S. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3242.

The Fireside Literary Series, featuring free readings by Minnesota authors, returns January 31 through February 27 to the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, the schedule includes Bill Holm and his new memoir *Windows of Brimnes* on Thursday, January 31, and American Indian author Lise Erdrich and her first collection of stories, *Night Train*, on Thursday, February 7. The programs begin at 7:00 p.m. and include free coffee and cookies. Call 651-222-3242

Young-adult author Gregory Maguire will discuss his new book *What-the-Dickens: The Story of a Rogue Tooth Fairy* with Marianne

Combs of Minnesota Public Radio on Sunday, February 3. The program begins at 2:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Musical guests are the Owls. Tickets are \$15, \$7.50 for children age 16 and under. Call 651-290-1221.

The Glass Castle, a memoir by Jeannette Walls, will be discussed by the Highland Park Library Book Club at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7, in the Activity Room of Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. New members are welcome. For more information, call 651-266-7029.

Family

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., plays host to storytimes for babies at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays, toddlers at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and preschoolers at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Featured in other free programs will be Gwenyth Swain, David Geister and their new picture book *Riding to Washington* at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 26; peek-a-boo stories for babies with Sara Waters, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 2. Call 651-224-8320.

"Music & Melody Makers," a hands-on introduction to the instruments of an orchestra for children ages 3-14, will be offered on Saturday, January 26, by the Minnesota Youth Symphonies. The free program runs from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Highland Park Junior High School, 975 S. Snelling Ave. Call 651-699-5811.

Lap-Sit Storytime, a free 20-minute program of stories, flannel boards, songs and puppet and finger plays for young listeners infant to 18 months of age, is offered at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-266-7029.

Hansel and Gretel, the ageless story of a young brother and sister who outwit an evil witch, will be performed on Sunday, February 3 by the Quebec puppet company Theatre Sans Fil. The curtain will rise at 2:00 p.m. at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$30, \$28 for seniors and \$20 for students and children. For reservations, call 651-690-6700.

Etc.

Open sessions for artists working on figure drawing will be offered from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays, January 26 through May 3 (no session on March 22), in the Drawing Studio at the College of Visual Arts, 173 N. Western Ave. Artists must provide their own supplies. Those under the age of 18 need the permission of a parent. The cost is \$10. Call 651-224-3416.

"Artistic Communities," a series of art history lectures, is being offered from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays, February 3-17, at the College of Visual Arts, 344 Summit Ave. The schedule includes "Michael Nelson: Temple Architecture and Herod the Great" on February 3; "Julie L'Enfant: The Impressionist Circle," February 10; and "Doryun Chong: Political Responsibility in Contemporary Art," February 17. The cost is \$10 per lecture, and no registration necessary. For information, call 651-224-3416.

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Sports



The Wright Call By Dave Wright

Youthful mistake is still a mistake

The best player on my high school hockey team was a guy named Marc Boisvert. He was a smooth skater who could shoot the puck as well as any high school kid I've ever seen. He was also a good-looking, fun-loving guy who had more dates with girls in a month than most of us have in a lifetime.

We had a big game scheduled on a Saturday night. Father Cullen, our coach, didn't impose curfews often, but he felt one was called for here with the stakes so high. So he told everybody they had to be home by 10:00 the night before and that he would be doing a spot check. Marc was out having fun on that Friday and wasn't home at curfew hour. Father Cullen hadn't checked on him, but he did discover one guy who wasn't home. The curfew violator decided not to go down alone and reported that other players—Marc among them—were also out that night.

Sound familiar?

Father Cullen held an impromptu meeting the next day. The miscreants were asked if the accusations were true. All pled guilty. The sentence was instantly imposed and we played several players short that night. Marc, an intelligent fellow, tearfully admitted that he was wrong and that he deserved whatever discipline the coach meted out. Perhaps the most telling part of the memory is what I cannot remember: whether we won or lost that game. It didn't matter. The case was then closed and the season proceeded.

The event occurred in 1970, but it's still pertinent in the aftermath of the latest Facebook controversy. If you missed it, 13 students at Eden Prairie High School were disciplined recently after Internet photos revealed they were partying with alcohol. The students who were involved were given the standard two-week sentence as stipulated by the guidelines of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

The howls of indignation and complaints about invasion of privacy that ensued were predictable. In the end, Eden Prairie school officials held their ground and even the American Civil Liberties Union agreed, citing a 2002 court case that deemed extracurricular activities to be privileges, not rights.

Forget for a moment the lunacy of the youths who complained they were being singled out merely because they got caught. Let's get to the heart of the issue.

"As an athletic director, when an adult offers you information on a student, you have no choice but to investigate," said Highland Park High School athletic director John Heller. "But I'm aware that students do have vendettas and can doctor pictures on an Internet site. So if I get a report from a student that Susie is doing something she shouldn't be doing, I'll bring her in and ask her about it. If it's just one student's word against another, that's tougher to decide. But if there's an adult who says something happened—and I have

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 34

CDH proves hard to beat in boys' hoops

BY BILL WAGNER

If the Cretin-Derham Hall boys' basketball team makes it to the state tournament this year, nobody will be saying that the Raiders didn't earn it. CDH, which was 11-1 overall and 4-1 in the Suburban East Conference as of January 18, continues to be ranked among the top 10 teams in the metro area. But the Raiders have had to play their tails off on the hard court this winter to remain there.

CDH has already bested conference foes Roseville, Woodbury, Hastings and, most recently, Mounds View. The only stain so far on CDH's otherwise perfect record was a four-point loss to Stillwater on January 8.

Coach Jerry Kline wasn't going to jump to any conclusions about his team after the first 11 games. "I know we're 10-1, but I guess I'm picky," he said. "We need to keep playing well. We play in a tough league and a lot of the teams are better this year than they were last year."

Kline, who continually stresses team defense as the most effective strategy to winning basketball games, might be a little conservative in his estimation of his team's prospects. There is little question that the Raiders are an experienced club with great athleticism and can present a formidable challenge for opponents at both ends of the floor. Throw in a solid bench that enables Kline to go eight or nine deep into the rotation, and it's not hard to understand why CDH has been so successful.

Woodbury coach Scott Swansson knows first-hand how good the Raiders



The Raiders' Michael Floyd flies by defenders en route to the basket in a 78-49 win over Hastings on January 15. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

are. His team lost 76-72 to CDH in an overtime thriller on January 11 and he came away duly impressed. The Royals almost overcame a 15-point second-half deficit against the Raiders, only to succumb in overtime. CDH's experience and poise proved to be the difference.

"When they get it cranked up, there aren't many teams that can beat them," Swansson said.

Leading the way for the Raiders this winter is senior forward Michael Floyd, who is averaging 25 points per game and

is the top scorer in the metro area. Floyd may be better known as the standout wide receiver who is headed to Notre Dame on a football scholarship next year, but he can dominate a basketball game with his offensive skills. He had 32 points against Woodbury and Kline believes it won't be long before Floyd breaks into the 40s.

Swansson said Floyd creates no end of headaches for opposing teams. "We

CDH HOOPS ▶ 33

Balanced Redhawk boys keep goals in sight

BY BILL WAGNER

Doug Johnson knows how important statistics are. The first-year coach of the Minnehaha Academy boys' hockey team just isn't wild about sharing them about his team. Check the list of scoring leaders in the daily newspapers and you won't find a solitary Redhawks player's name.

"We don't update stats," said Johnson, adding that he doesn't want to put any more pressure on his players by having their numbers out there for the world to see.

Johnson does use statistics in private to help him coach his team, and when you add up the numbers, they reflect a pretty talented squad—much different

from past Minnehaha teams that have enjoyed limited success.

The Redhawks were 9-5-1 overall as of January 15 and were leading the tough Tri-Metro Conference in goals scored with 66. "So far, so good," Johnson said. "We've got a ways to go, but our kids have done a good job. Everyone has worked hard. Our goal is to get to the state tournament."

The Hawks took the ice playing like demons, dominating Prior Lake 4-0 in the season opener, and going on to win their next five games by a total goal margin of 40-15. The team slowed a bit around the holidays, but Johnson saw enough good things to say that he liked the team's general direction.

"Offensively, I think we can score

enough goals," he said. "We're a skating team, and we can make things happen out there. But we need to get a little stronger in our defensive end."

Minnehaha hit a big bump in the road earlier this month. Johnson had hoped his club could play perennial powerhouses Blake and Breck a lot tougher in league play. However, in the Hawks' first match against Blake on January 12, Minnehaha went down 7-1. Still, Johnson noted that the game wasn't as one-sided as the score indicated.

"It was in their building," he said, "and at one point, we had the puck in their zone for eight minutes and couldn't score."

MINNEHAHA HOCKEY ▶ 33

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Concordia women hoopsters jump to third in the nation

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

Concordia University's women's basketball team has achieved national prominence that would have been hard to fathom just a little over a year ago. The Golden Bears are ranked third in the nation in the USA Today/ESPN top 25 poll, trailing only the University of North Dakota and Delta State University in NCAA Division II.

Concordia improved to 18-0 (9-0 in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference) on January 19 with a 71-65 win over conference rival Southwest Minnesota State. Dating to last season, the Golden Bears have won 38 of their last 41 games—an eye-popping run for a St. Paul school that enrolls only 1,000 traditional, full-time students.

The hot streak is impressive, but the team is keeping its sneakers planted firmly on the court. The Golden Bears, who returned all five starters from 2006-07, are not forgetting that they stumbled out of the gate last season with a 2-7 start. "We use that as motivation," said head coach Paul Fessler.

How does a team go from 2-7 to third in the nation? Fessler believes the team temporarily struggled to find its identity last season after graduating two key seniors. In time, Concordia improved its shooting, came together as a team, and established itself as a squad that likes to push up the tempo, bang it inside and create perimeter scoring opportunities.

Concordia plays nine to 10 players deep, but it is especially strong at the point and down low. Amanda

Behnke, a senior center from Eagan, and Candace Olstad, a junior forward from Elgin, provide the muscle and scoring touch on the inside. Katie LaViolette, a senior guard from Manitowoc, Wisconsin, calls the shots from the point.

Behnke, who averages 17.7 points and 8.2 rebounds a game, was closing in on 1,200 career points for the Golden Bears as of mid-January and is the defending NSIC player of the year. Behnke was leading the team with a .574 field goal percentage. Olstad was close behind with a .571 field goal percentage and has traded back and forth with Behnke for the lead all season.

When Behnke and Olstad get rolling, it frees up the perimeter and creates opportunities for the team's sharpshooters, said Fessler, who has guided Concordia to a 166-62 record since coming to the school in 2000.

"We want to have our post players demand a double team, and those two can do it," he said.

LaViolette, a two-time NSIC player of the week this season who has been averaging 11.1 points per game, also demands attention from opposing teams. In a 83-79 overtime win at home over Winona State on January 12, she dished out eight assists and became the school's all-time assists leader with 648. She was leading the nation in total assists with 135 following that contest. She is also among Concordia's career leaders in scoring, rebounds and steals since the school moved up to Division II in 1999.

Senior guards Kelly Lund (New Brighton) and Mary Schroeder (Minneapolis) round out the start-



Golden Bears Amanda Behnke, left, Jessica Tewes and Kali Olstad battle for the ball during a scrimmage at Concordia University's Ganglehoff Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ing lineup. Sophomore guards Kali Olstad (Elgin) and Jamie Jones (Mounds View) are among the first players off the bench.

LaViolette said that after the poor start last season, the players started building team chemistry. "As we started playing together more, we started knowing where each person was going to be and got more comfortable with each other," she said.

Five of the team's players are Division I transfers, including Behnke. The St. Croix Lutheran High School

graduate started her college career at Winthrop University in South Carolina. After getting hurt her sophomore year, Behnke mulled her future.

"I sat out and then I got kind of homesick," said the 6-foot-2 Behnke, who ranks 15th on the school's all-time scoring list. "I knew they had a good program here and I wanted to be around home and play in the Cities, so I decided to come back."

Concordia has not always had a

women's basketball program that was attractive to Division I players. The school, one of the smallest in its conference, had pockets of success in the 1970s and early '80s, but in the '90s it averaged a mere six wins a season.

In 2000-01, Fessler's first season at the school, Concordia got back to double-digit wins (12-15, 8-10 NSIC). The team soared to a 22-7 overall record the following season and went on to win 28, 25, 20 and 22 games in each of its next four seasons.

Under Fessler's watch, Concordia has won four NSIC titles and has had some success on a national stage, with four straight NCAA Division II regional semifinals and one Sweet Sixteen appearance.

Another strong playoff run could be ahead, but first Concordia has to take care of its nine remaining regular-season games. Next up for the Golden Bears is a contest at Minnesota State University in Moorhead on January 26.

March will bring the NSIC Tournament from March 1-8, the NCAA North Central Region Tournament from March 14-17 and the NCAA Elite Eight Tournament in Kearney, Nebraska, from March 21-24.

Reaching the Elite Eight would be nice, but Fessler said the team has a long way to go. "Being undefeated and ranked third in the country is fun," he said, "but when it comes April 1 and the final rankings come out, that counts the most."

Fessler said his players continue to work hard at getting better. "They know we haven't peaked," he said. "We haven't played our best basketball yet."

Sibley gymnasts are on a roll

The Henry Sibley High School gymnastics team completed its season undefeated in Classic Suburban Conference competition with a 144.275 to 132.2 win over North St. Paul on January 15. The score

broke Sibley's school record by two points.

Top scorers for the Warriors included junior Cece Solem, who placed first in all four events and took the all-around with a score of 38.65. Senior Mari Bennett placed second on vault, balance beam and all-around with a score of 35.6, third on floor and tied for third on bars. Junior Libby Blocker placed third in all-around with a 35.15 and placed second on bars and third on beam. Senior Ali

Vandercook placed second on floor and tied for third on bars.

The 19th Sibley Invitational was held on January 11-12. The Warriors won the seven-school varsity meet with 138.6, followed by Prior Lake with 136.7 and Cretin-Derham Hall with 134.875. Solem placed first on vault, floor and all-around with a score of 36.975. She also placed fourth on bars and second on beam. Bennett placed fourth all-around

and sixth on floor. Vandercook placed third on floor and sixth on beam, and Blocker was fifth on bars.

Sibley will host the Classic Suburban Conference meet at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. The junior varsity meet is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 31, at Simley High School. The Section 3AA gymnastics meet will be held on Friday, February 15, at Apple Valley High School.

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31 ◀ CDH HOOPS

tried mixing up our defenses, but Floyd hurt us anyway," he said.

Senior guard John Nance is another big asset for the Raiders. Nance, who as quarterback led CDH to the Prep Bowl two months ago and will play football for the Gophers next season, is averaging about 13 points a game on the basketball court and scored 24 against Mounds View.

Sophomore forward/center Seantrel Henderson makes good use of his 6-foot-7, 295-pound frame to provide a great inside force for the Raiders. He averages 14 points a game and makes life very unpleasant for opposing offenses and defenses inside. Henderson has been so impressive in his sophomore year that Ohio State football coach Jim Tressel was seen scouting him at a recent basketball game.

Senior forward Jacob Esch is a smart leader on the floor and plays solid defense, too. Senior guard Torres Tillman, who rounds out the starting five, is a steady, high-energy player who creates havoc for the opposition.

First off the bench is generally junior guard Marcus Binns, another defensive stalwart with a knack for creating turnovers. The other backups who make significant contributions

are junior guards Bo Bona and David Bettenburg and senior forward Connor Lynch.

CDH's victory over Woodbury was important because it re-established the team's momentum following the Stillwater loss, which Kline said was extremely distressing. "We only shot 21 percent (against the Ponies)," he said.

The Raiders followed up the Woodbury win with a 78-49 victory over Hastings on January 15 and a 68-64 win over Mounds View on January 18.

Despite the Raider's record thus far, Kline raised concern that his team sometimes loses its focus. "We were ahead of Woodbury by 15 points with nine minutes left to play," he said. "We need to maintain our consistency."

Still, Kline stressed that his charges have exhibited a strong work ethic, which they'll need to earn their way to state this year after being denied for the last six seasons.

He cited the work of Floyd, Nance and the other players who came so close to winning a state football title in November. "We lost in the state championship game to an outstanding Eden Prairie team," Kline said. "We all know how disappointing it was for our players. These guys want to go out as champs."



Minnehaha's Sam Blaisdell tries to score on SPA goalie Steven Estep as defender James Trevathan skates in during the Redhawks' 6-3 win on January 15. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

31 ◀ MINNEHAHA HOCKEY

Minnehaha then roared back on January 15 with a 6-3 win over St. Paul Academy to even its conference record at 1-1. Junior center Sam Blaisdell and senior left wing Luke Lundeen both had two goals and two assists to lead the way for the Hawks.

Minnehaha has plenty of good players to make the season interesting. And even though Johnson doesn't like to publicize their stats, he is not shy about talking in general about their assets.

In the nets, the Hawks rely on the talents of seniors John McLean and Stephen Teasdale. McLean uses his 6-foot-8 frame to great advantage. Teasdale is only 5-foot-7, but he's quick. "They have different styles," Johnson said.

On defense are junior Johnny VanWinkle and sophomore Chase Wichelmann. VanWinkle might be the team's best backliner and is strong on both the power play and penalty-killing duties. He's big and strong and can work the puck out of the zone. Wichelmann, who started as a freshman, also has good size and can shoot the puck. "Our defense is young, but we're playing pretty well," Johnson said.

The Hawks' most formidable weapon is their first line, which is made up of Blaisdell, Lundeen and junior right wing Louis Hamel.

Blaisdell was one of the metro area's leading scorers as of early January with 19 goals and 12 assists. In a performance that would've

made the Minnesota Wild's Marian Gaborik proud, he had five goals and an assist in a 7-3 win over Minneapolis East on January 5. In fact, he has scored five goals in a game twice this season.

"He has an accurate shot and he moves the puck well," Johnson said.

Lundeen had 65 points last season and is also an effective forechecker. Hamel is the most physical of the threesome, handling the corner work and checking duties in the offensive and defensive zones.

"That's is one of the best lines in the state," Johnson said of his first unit.

Junior right wing Andrew McNamara is strong and smart with the puck on the second line, and senior left wing Eric Elftmann has added some offensive savvy this year after being converted from defense. (His 25 assists last year made the move too tempting for Johnson.) And second-line sophomore center Matt Wolpert handles the puck and skates well.

The Hawks have had some injuries to battle through this season. McNamara broke his thumb early this month and was expected to be out until at least January 23. Senior wing David Semm also was expected to be sidelined with mononucleosis until early next month.

Johnson said his team's impressive record is no fluke, and that improvements should only continue. "We need to find a third line if we want to do something in the playoffs," he said, "but we've got kids who are playing hard and that's all you can ask for."

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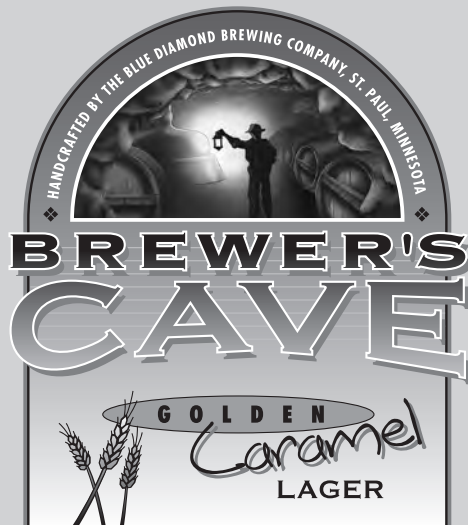
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31 ◀ WRIGHT CALL

no evidence otherwise—it has to be good enough.”

Heller was a coach for many years and knows full well what happens when a team—no matter the sport—loses a key player for two weeks. However, in most cases administrators have little choice.

“We had a lawyer talk to us at an State High School League meeting and explain the legal differences these days,” Heller said. “Take alcohol possession as an example. If I’m driving in a car and I’m not consuming alcohol but three other people in my car are drinking, I’m legally still in possession.”

Hence, if students are pictured with a beer in their hands, they’re in possession of alcohol—whether they actually drink it or not.

(There was a story last week about an Iowa woman who sold her son’s car because alcohol was found in it. The lad pled innocent to consumption, but the mother held her ground, saying the two of them had made a deal that no alcohol was to be consumed or possessed in the car by anyone at any time.)

It used to be that a person’s reputation—good or bad—was a matter of word of mouth or what was on paper. As today’s politicians and entertainers are finding out to their chagrin, the Internet tells all sorts of tales. Separating truth from doctored fiction can take time, which is something high school administrators don’t always have. So they go with what they have and move on.

The ramifications of appearing on the Internet, by the way, can also affect potential high school employees. “We had a fellow apply for a coaching job here a few years ago,” Heller said. “He had a good resume and we were thinking of hiring him. Then I got a call from an adult who told me to check out the guy’s MySpace page. Sure enough, there he was, with his shirt off and a bottle of alcohol in his hand.”

The fellow didn’t get hired. Was the picture a factor? Heller didn’t say, but it sure didn’t help the guy’s case.

Henry Sibley High School activities director Brian Ihrke greeted the news out of Eden Prairie with a sigh. He knew

the incident will eventually cause him to talk with his school’s athletes again about behavioral issues. “What you have to remember is, we’re not the law,” he said. “We don’t need the proof that other agencies do. Having said that, as an administrator I’m not looking for trouble. I understand kids make mistakes.”

Translation: I’d like to cut students some slack, but if they’re dumb enough to have pictures taken of them with a beer in their hand, it’s guilty as charged.

Minneapolis Roosevelt athletic director Al Frost concurred with Ihrke that the issue is not a legal one. “I talked with lawyer friends of mine who told me the Internet is so new that a lot of laws haven’t been established yet,” he said. “It doesn’t matter. Students sign a code of conduct that forbids this kind of activity. This isn’t a freedom of speech issue.”

Instead, the youngsters at Eden Prairie should consider it a first lesson in what will become a lifelong course in reading the fine print of a contract. As everybody who has ever bought a home or car knows, contracts contain all sorts of clauses and subclauses. If you missed something you’re supposed to have read before you signed, ignorance is not an excuse.

Ihrke would much rather be talking about the Warriors’ excellent boys’ basketball team, which was off to a 2-0 start in the Classic Suburban as of this writing. He would rather talk at length about players like senior guard Peter Leslie, who recently scored his 1,000th career point. However, he also knows that part of being a school administrator means prepping for situations like what happened at Eden Prairie. “What people frequently fail to understand is that the coaches are also hurt when a kid makes a bad choice,” he said. “They don’t want to sit out anybody they don’t have to.”

However, as Father Cullen taught 38 years ago, school officials have to do what’s necessary to make their point.

Ihrke paused for a second and anticipated this reporter’s next question regarding the Eden Prairie situation. “For the life of me, why would you take pictures?” he asked. “It just doesn’t make sense.”

Sports Shorts

The Minneapolis Boat Show will be held Wednesday through Sunday, January 23-27 at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 2nd Ave. S. The show features hundreds of boats, exhibits and special attractions. Event highlights include the “Bling My Boat” contest winner, antique and classic boat display, Discover Boating Center and SailFest. Admission is \$5.00-\$10.

Smucker’s Stars on Ice: Live and In Color will feature Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen in a performance at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 26, at Xcel Energy Center. Other Olympics and world champions also will be featured. Tickets start at \$25 and may be purchased at the Xcel Energy Center Box Office, Ticketmaster centers, by logging onto www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 651-989-5151.

An informational meeting for teens interested in competing in the 2008 JCC Maccabi Games will take place at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 24, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Tryout dates, costs and other information will be provided about Team St. Paul’s participation at the 2008 JCC Maccabi Games that will be held in San Diego, California on August 3-8. Participation is open to Jewish teens ages 13-16 as of August 1. Team St. Paul is sponsored by the St. Paul and Sabes JCCs. Families do not need to belong to either JCC to participate. The St. Paul delegation will compete in boys’ and girls’ basketball, boys’ and girls’ soccer, baseball, tennis, swimming, dance, golf, bowling and table tennis. To register for the meeting, call 651-698-0751. For more information, call Rich Danov at 651-4733 or visit www.jccmaccabi.org.

A Superbowl party will be held by the Temple of Aaron’s Men’s Club at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, February 3, at the synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. This is open to members and non-members. The game will be shown in high definition in the Fink Youth Lounge and winter grilled Kosher hamburgers

and hot dogs will be served. Pop and beer also will be available. The cost is \$8.00-\$10 for adults and \$5.00 for children. To register, e-mail George Bier at george@thebierfamily.com or call the synagogue at 651-6998-8874.

Southwest Area Fastpitch will host an open house and registration night on Wednesday, February 13, for girls interested in playing traveling softball this summer. The open house will take place from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Teams are forming at the 18, 16, 14, 12 and 10 and under levels. Play begins in May and runs to mid-July. Interested players and parents should stop by the open house or e-mail swafastpitch@aol.com.

The Medtronic Twin Cities Kids Marathon will hold a track meet from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, February 2, at the University of Minnesota Field House. The meet will feature half-mile and mile runs. Kids may register with their parent’s help at mtcmarathon.org. The cost is \$12. All kids will receive a medal and a winter hat.

Matt Cadwell, a Cretin-Derham Hall graduate and now junior guard at Concordia University-St. Paul, reached 1,000 career points during the Golden Bears’ 93-55 home loss to Winona State on January 12. Cadwell has 1,006 points in his three collegiate seasons, including two with South Dakota State before transferring to Concordia. He finished the game with seven points and five assists.

A gentle walking class meets from 10:30 to 11:15 am. each Wednesday at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Walking and stretching will be under the guidance of Dorrie Brandon from the South Minneapolis YMCA. Walk at your own pace. No reservations are required, but there is a suggested donation of \$1.00. Call 612-721-6611 or visit www.christchurchluth.org.

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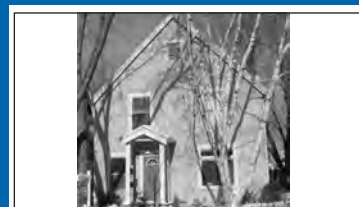
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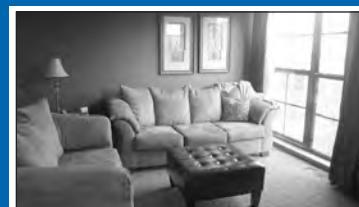
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Highland Charmer!

Great value! One owner home w/4 BRs, 1.5 baths, eat-in kit., FP, formal DR, expansion w/hdwd., new elec., furn. & AC, 2-car gar., nice lot. 1631 Bayard Ave.

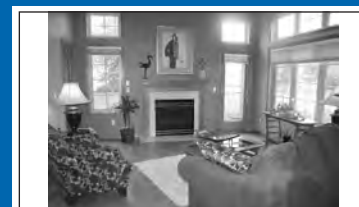
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What a Steal!

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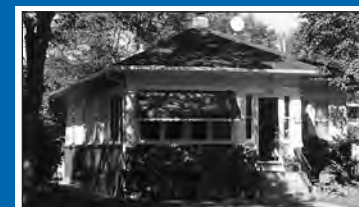
651 646-2100 \$225,000



Picture Perfect!

Open floor plan plus gorgeous decor! Stunning LR w/vaulted ceiling & tons of windows. Spacious master suite, large eat-in kit. & lofted FR. Must see! 2995 David Cir.

651 646-2100 \$250,000



New Mac-Grove Listing

Classic Mac-Groveland bungalow, just listed. 1839 Princeton. Brick & stucco Craftsman with 2 BRs & hdwd. floors. Updated kit. & bath, large fenced yard w/gardens.

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If you're planning to buy or sell...

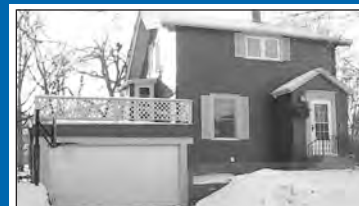
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